

## Reconciliation

Sometimes I get concerned about wanting to see the church at AHBC with a wrong heart. (A selfish heart. I am competitive.)

But lately I have been noticing how Jesus, and in this case, Paul had ambition. (Their ambition was for the glory of God.)

1 Corinthians 10:31–33 (ESV)

<sup>31</sup>So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. <sup>32</sup>Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, <sup>33</sup>just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.

I am sure that there are many people who take seriously the results that come from their occupations. (That certainly can fit into the verse above.) **It should!**

As a matter of fact, “why do so many care more about the success of the world than what they do for Christ”? (For the Christian, how we live for Jesus should be **the main thing!**)

In continuation of the thought of us living in a tent now, and a permanent body later, Paul continues with these thoughts-

2 Corinthians 5:9 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

- This word “aim”- translates to ambition. (It is our aim/ambition to please Christ.) But how seriously do we take this? (Look at 10)

2 Corinthians 5:10 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

- This is speaking specifically to Christians. (How do we know this?) **Judgement seat of Christ. (expound) bema/platform**

If this life and the successes are important to you, and you are driven, then here is something you should really consider. (After all, this is eternity that this is talking about, not just a few “famous” years.)

Notwithstanding, the ambition can only be carried through from love motivation rather than selfish ambition. **(This will be the only way that any one of us will see this through!)**

1. The realization of the fear of the Lord- **(How many Christians do not take this into account as they live daily? And we know the lost aren't!)**

2 Corinthians 5:11–13 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who

boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. <sup>13</sup> For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

- A.) We really will stand before God someday. (Isaiah “fell as if he were dead” in God’s presence.)
- B.) But Paul was not concerned because his **conscience was clear on his holy ambition!** (you?)
- C.) Do you live for the praise of men, or for the praise of God? (Bema/it will be known!)
- D.) “Beside himself”? – What may seem crazy to people don’t really matter when it comes to living for Christ. (Say what they will, the day before Christ will come.) Pinkerton story.
- E.) Of course, things of a spiritual kingdom don’t make sense in a physical world, but it will and we must tell them and leave the results to God through His Word and the Spirit.

**At this point, how would you see Holy ambition?**

2. The motivation of love for Christ- (Just being saved will not be enough to understand this) We are convicted of our sin at salvation, **but discipleship develops our love.**

2 Corinthians 5:14–17 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup>and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup>**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.**

- We fear God because of His **awesome power**, but we love God because of **His awesome love** for us. (Who has ever been told “when your dad gets home” or just your mom!) But in most lives, that was because of the love that they had for ignorant children!

1 John 4:19 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. (This is the game changer. It is super intrinsic motivation!)

A.) Verse 14 is so key! (**He died for us, and we died to sin for Him**)

This should not just flippantly go by us! We died to sin. (We are not the same, we are new.)

B.) But we live. Look at v 15. We live for a different ambition now.

(“But I don’t want to’! – You **prefer to live in sin?** And if lost, you **prefer eternal death?** Christ loves you more than that!)

**Romans 6:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

C.) He paid the price for all! (So that we would not be ultimately doomed and temporary.)

D.) We now have ambition that carries into eternity. (True purpose)

E.) We don’t see things according to the flesh any longer. (We see life through “resurrected lenses!”)

F.) Do not ignore vs. 17. (Let it soak into your soul right now)

So where does our ambition take us as a new creation?

2 Corinthians 5:18–21 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- Reconciliation- What was stolen away from man, Jesus recovers. (This is more than salvation; **it is walking in relationship with Jesus as the plan all along.**)
- Ministry of reconciliation- this is our God-given purpose. (This is what we give account on.
- Entrusted to us- this needs to be understood.
- Ambassadors- for Christ AND making the appeal of God for Him. (We have **purpose, responsibility, and hopefully a holy ambition**) which occurs intrinsically.
- The purpose? Reconciliation
- And most of all, Jesus did this out of love for us, reconciliation.
- This should not ever be ignored or taken for granted.