

CHRISTIAN AMBITION

IT IS GOOD WHEN IT IS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

1. The best gifts: 1 Corinthians 12:31
What are they? Those which are more beneficial to the Body of Christ.
The words covet/desire means “emulously desire” – not in the spirit of discontented coveting.
2. Spiritual growth: Philippians 3:12-14
The goal in our lives is to know Christ and to be like Him. Therefore, with all our energy, we should pursue and go after it. “I’m off and running, if I’m not turning back.”
(Verse 14
The Message Bible)
3. The Gospel’s Expansion: Romans 15:17-20
Paul’s ambition/motivation was to preach the Gospel wherever Christ was not known. It was a God given and God inspired motivation. It is a mandate for us as well.
4. Acceptance Before God: Romans 14:17-18
The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. When we serve Him in this way, we are acceptable to God.
Psalm 19:14: Our words and thoughts should be pleasing.
Romans 12:1, 2: Our dedication
5. Quietness: 1 Thessalonians 4:11
We are to make it our ambition to live a quiet life

CHRISTIAN AMBITION IS EVIL IF IT LEADS TO:

1. Strife: Matthew 20:20-28
Mother of James and John had wrong motives in what she asked of Jesus...favor for her sons. This stirred up questions and further discussion among the disciples. Self-ambition is not pleasing to the Lord.
Verse 24 states: “When the 10 disciples heard what was going on they became indignant.” God’s kingdom is about service...not position.
2. Sinful superiority: Matthew 18:1-6
The disciples come asking about who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. We must realize that serving God is not about prestige or status. That is the world’s thinking not God’s. Jesus’ answer: we must be as a little child.
3. A Pharisaical spirit: Matthew 12:38-40
The Pharisees were asking for a miraculous sign without sincerely seeking to know Jesus. We must be careful that we don’t chase after the signs and wonders. It is Jesus we are to seek and know. Signs and wonders follow.

4. Contention about gifts: 1 Corinthians 3:3-8

God's work involves many different people with different gifts. It's all the gifts coming together which make the whole body healthy. It's never to be about any one person or name. We are to be of no reputation.

See also James 3:16.

5. Selfish ambition: Philippians 1:14-17

Our motives will be judged. Our serving is not to be out of selfish ambition. Some were envious of Paul's influence and were presenting the Gospel with wrong motives.