

UNASHAMED

I am unashamed to live for Jesus. I am unashamed that I am totally dependent on him. He is everything. Without him, I am dead in my sin, without hope and without meaning in life. I am unashamed to say that I am weak and helpless. And yet he has made me strong. Because of Christ, there is always hope.

Therefore, I am unashamed that my whole life is from him, for him and to be lived with him. His priorities will determine my priorities:

- **Because of Jesus, I am unashamed to love my wife.** To be willing to die for my wife. To sacrifice my needs for her needs. To love her in the same way that Jesus loves us. I am unashamed to try and worship her with everything I am.
- **Because of Jesus, I am unashamed to love my family.** Before I was born my days were written down. He knew which family I would be born into. He knew my beginning and my end. Therefore, I am unashamed to honour them and to love them.
- **Because of Jesus, I am unashamed to love Clare's family.** What Clare loves, I love. They are a gift from God, and are to be honoured and treasured. I am unashamed to try and model Christ's love to them.
- **Because of Jesus, I am unashamed to serve the people that come into my life.** I am called to lead as Christ did. I am therefore unashamed to serve them. To show grace and mercy.
- **Because of Jesus, I am unashamed to try and build the strongest church possible.** This will be hard work, and involve suffering and sacrifice. But it is worth the effort. I am ashamed that sometimes the desire to do this comes from pride. I am ashamed that sometimes I am more interested in success than people. But, doing all I can to avoid this, I am unashamed to try and build a vibrant church which will ripple wide.
- **Because of Jesus, I am unashamed to continue using any gifts for the sake of serving him.** I am unashamed to study culture, take concerted effort in observing and learning about the world I live in. This serves Christ more than it serves me. So, therefore, I am unashamed to take careful time to do it.

“ *And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (Romans 5:5)* ”