

## Reckless Abandon

By Bob Young

I like the phrase that Dustin Willis, co-author of *Life On Mission*, uses to describe vibrant Christian living—abandonment. What does it mean to live a life of abandon? A similar phrase is sometimes used negatively of those who live carelessly, as in the phrase “reckless abandon.” Willis says that the Christian who lives life “on mission” is called to live a life of abandonment.

Indeed, the Christian life is one of relinquishing our own selfishness. It is a life of self-abnegation, making ourselves less and less so that Jesus can be more and more. It is a life that makes God’s mission in this world our top priority. To go through life with such abandon enables us to be the vessels through which the true hope of Jesus shines and is spread in every place. It makes us sharers and participants in God’s mission in this world. What does this life look like?

We give up caring what other people think; we give up reputation and popularity  
We escape comfort zones  
We get involved in the lives of other people, even when it gets dirty  
We seek opportunities—to serve, to share, to insert gospel realities in everyday life  
We try to see people through God’s eyes  
We try to understand that God has put us in the kingdom for such a time as this  
We notice when people are interested in spiritual things and we invest in such people  
We establish authentic, gospel-centered relationships  
We freely invite others into the community of faith  
We model the transforming power of the gospel in our own lives

Willis describes it like this:

*“Life on mission is not about staying the same in our comfortable circumstances. Nor is it about achieving spiritual highs or floating in the clouds of parsed doctrine. It’s about giving ourselves over to the everyday mission of God and becoming involved in the lives of people around us, living a very real gospel in a very real world where our holy hands are going to get pretty dirty.*

*Living on mission means we’ll intersect gospel into our everyday routines and look for ways to use our time and resources for every opportunity He places before us.*

*Living on mission means we’ll begin to see people through God’s eyes and feel about them the way He feels about them. It means we’ll remember we’re not in this community by accident; God has placed us here for a reason.*

*Living on mission means we’ll invest in people for the purpose of authentic, gospel-centered relationships.*

*Living on mission means we’ll invite people into gospel community, where they can experience the transformative power of Christ and His church.”*