



## Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition

By Brian J. Mahan

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

**Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition** By Brian J. Mahan

In the wise and often witty *Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose*, Brian Mahan considers the question of how it is possible to create a meaningful spiritual life while living in a culture that measures us by what we have rather than who we are. Drawing on nearly two decades of teaching experience, Brian Mahan shares stories of personal struggle and triumph that demonstrate how those who seek meaning and purpose have recalimed their authentic selves by resolving the inevitable tension between personal ambition and spiritual vibrancy.

 [Download Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and th ...pdf](#)

# **Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition**

*By Brian J. Mahan*

## **Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition By Brian J. Mahan**

In the wise and often witty Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose, Brian Mahan considers the question of how it is possible to create a meaningful spiritual life while living in a culture that measures us by what we have rather than who we are. Drawing on nearly two decades of teaching experience, Brian Mahan shares stories of personal struggle and triumph that demonstrate how those who seek meaning and purpose have recalimed their authentic selves by resolving the inevitable tension between personal ambition and spiritual vibrancy.

## **Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition By Brian J. Mahan**

### **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #1000804 in Books
- Published on: 2010-02-08
- Released on: 2002-01-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .55" w x 6.00" l, .79 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 240 pages



[Download Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition By Brian J. Mahan

---

### Editorial Review

#### From Publishers Weekly

Do we all have "shadow governments of compassion and idealism"? In this odd, sometimes disjointed but always engaging meditation on the relationship between vocation and ambition, Mahan answers yes. Referencing Thomas Merton, Frederick Buechner, William James, Walker Percy and Leo Tolstoy, Mahan muses rather than argues, and ends each chapter with assignments gleaned from the college courses he has taught on this topic. For example, at the end of one chapter, he invites readers to hold a national press conference at which they attempt to rationalize an episode in their lives when they engaged in repeated self-deception leading to serious moral compromise. Each chapter and assignment leads readers, in one way or another, to examine the tension between the lives they would live governed by compassion, in complete harmony with God's calling, entered into via "epiphanies of recruitment" and the socially scripted, ambition-driven lives they do live. Pleasantly surprising is Mahan's light touch: he never resorts to heavy-handed homilies about how bereft conventional lives are, but rather invites readers to observe themselves living such lives, and to do so nonjudgmentally, with equal parts good humor, discomfort, acceptance and motivation to change. While encouraging readers to attempt mystical and imaginative exercises, Mahan ultimately avoids prescription. On the contrary, he ends by suggesting that ambition and vocation are not mutually exclusive, and that God delights in any and all attempts that flawed, inevitably ambitious people make to live according to their ideals.

Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

#### From Booklist

In a short book demanding a slow reading, Christian educator Brian Mahan challenges the American cult of success with its inevitable apotheosis of the triumphant self. Convening an improbable conclave of spiritual advisors--Christian devotionalists, psychological theorists, and modern novelists--Mahan invites readers to probe the origins and consequences of their personal ambitions. Again and again, our cravings for wealth and prominence betray our vulnerability to self-deception and alienation, as we rationalize choices that suppress our authentic impulses of benevolence and idealism. To help recover our suppressed aspirations, Mahan guides us through the tasks of "formative remembering" (What am I living for?) and "spiritual misdirection" (What is distracting me from my true aims?). Honest engagement with these tasks draws us into the paradox of deliberate self-forgetfulness and toward the joyous discovery of what Mahan calls vocation: the proper dedication of our unique talents to meeting the needs of others. A priceless book for readers whose march through success manuals has left them with only emptiness and cynicism. *Bryce Christensen*

Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

#### Review

Do we all have "shadow governments of compassion and idealism"? In this odd, sometimes disjointed but always engaging meditation on the relationship between vocation and ambition, Mahan answers yes. Referencing Thomas Merrton, Frederick Buechner, William James, Walker Percy and Leo Tolstoy, Mahan muses rather than argues, and ends each chapter with assignments gleaned from the college courses he has taught on this topic. For example, at the end of one chapter, he invites readers to hold a national press conference at which they attempt to rationalize an episode in their lives when they engaged in repeated self-deception leading to serious moral compromise. Each chapter and assignment leads readers, in one way or another, to examine the tension between the lives they would live-govemed by compassion, in complete

harmony with God's calling, entered into via "epiphanies of recruitment"-and the socially scripted, ambition-driven lives they do live. Pleasantly surprising is Mahan's light touch: he never resorts to heavy-handed homilies about how bereft conventional lives are, but rather invites readers to observe themselves living such lives, and to do so nonjudgmentally, with equal parts good humor, discomfort, acceptance and motivation to change. While encouraging readers to attempt mystical and imaginative exercises, Mahan ultimately avoids prescription. On the contrary, he ends by suggesting that ambition and vocation are not mutually exclusive, and that God delights in any and all attempts that flawed, inevitably ambitious people make to live according to their ideals. (Feb.) (Publishers Weekly)

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Bonita Murray:**

Often the book Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition will bring someone to the new experience of reading the book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to see, this book very ideal to you. The book Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

#### **Cedric Baker:**

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the spare time or they will get large amount of stress from both day to day life and work. So , if we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer will unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the book you have read will be Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition.

#### **Kayla Congdon:**

With this era which is the greater particular person or who has ability in doing something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to possess a look at some books. One of many books in the top list in your reading list is Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition. This book that is certainly qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking way up and review this e-book you can get many advantages.

#### **Suzanne Palmer:**

As a college student exactly feel bored to be able to reading. If their teacher asked them to go to the library or make summary for some e-book, they are complained. Just very little students that has reading's soul or real their leisure activity. They just do what the teacher want, like asked to the library. They go to at this time there but nothing reading very seriously. Any students feel that looking at is not important, boring and can't

see colorful photos on there. Yeah, it is to become complicated. Book is very important for you personally. As we know that on this period of time, many ways to get whatever we really wish for. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore this Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition can make you truly feel more interested to read.

**Download and Read Online Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose:  
Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition By Brian J. Mahan  
#YHAEONP0S8V**

# **Read Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition By Brian J. Mahan for online ebook**

Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition By Brian J. Mahan Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition By Brian J. Mahan books to read online.

## **Online Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition By Brian J. Mahan ebook PDF download**

**Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition By Brian J. Mahan Doc**

**Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition By Brian J. Mahan MobiPocket**

**Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition By Brian J. Mahan EPub**

**YHAEONP0S8V: Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition By Brian J. Mahan**