



Commitment

As a leader, you want your team members to be committed. One of the greatest temptations is to use the wrong motivation to get people to do what is right. This does not only apply to the leaders but also to the team members.

Commitment is one of the challenges that leaders face on a regular basis.

Mark 8:34 says, "And when he had called the people *unto him* with his disciples also, he said *unto them*, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

Luke 14:26-27 says, "If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."

Keys to Commitment

1. Unconditional Love of God and the Grace of God

The most zealous person in the New Covenant was the apostle, Paul. One thing that Paul understood more than others was the revelation of the love and grace of God. This is one of the reasons he was committed and dedicated to God.

The greatest motivation to serve is knowing the love of God for you, not necessarily your love for Him.

The best Biblical basis for commitment is God's love for you.

- It's not what you do for the Lord such as giving, tithes, reading the Bible, and so forth.
- It is not fear. We draw more bees with honey than we would with vinegar.
 - Many times, we tend to employ fear as the means to motivate believers. This is not the right motivation to serve or be committed to the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:14 says, *"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead":*

a) 1 John 4:10,18-19 says, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. [18] There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. [19] We love him, because he first loved us."

i) It is impossible for us to love God first. Without Him, we have no clue what love looks like. True love is demonstrated by God to us. He had to love us first for us to love Him back.

ii) If there is another motivation other than love, you will break. You will quit. It is just a matter of time.

iii) You need a greater reason than a paycheck to go to work, a greater reason than the fear of divorce, on and on the list goes. That greater reason is knowing how much God loves you. His love for you will cause you to do the right thing even when no one is looking.

Understanding the love of God will set you free to love, serve, give, forgive and so forth.

iv) If you are struggling in any area of your life, the bottom line is you do not know or understand God's love for you. A revelation of God's love for you will completely transform your life and your level of commitment to the Lord.

b) God's love explained!

i) Jesus loves you not because you are good, not because you are lovely. He loves you because He is Love. That is His nature. (1 John 4:8, 16)

ii) Jesus would love you even if you never served Him a day.

iii) His love for you is **not** proportional to your love for Him.


☐ Do not serve God to earn His love. You CANNOT earn His love for you. You can only receive it as a gift. It is not a wage to be earned.

iv) If you are born again, you are pleasing to God (Hebrews 11:6).

☐ It is faith that pleases God. Serving the Lord is very a good thing, but it doesn't make God love you more or less.

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☐ You need to become **secure in the love of God for you** and let your serving be driven by His love for you, not the other way around.

 v) If you understand that the Lord loves you, you cannot help but love Him back.

2. What is your calling?

If you want to be committed, you need to find out God's call on your life.

- a) One of the reasons we aren't committed to certain things is because we do not have a clue what God has called and anointed us to do.
- b) Although there is a place for helping out where the need is, we will not be totally committed to something that does not line up with God's call on our lives.
- c) Paul was passionate and committed to God's call on his life because he knew what it was. If he was just wandering around unawares, he would not be committed.
 - i) You cannot be committed to what you do not want, or have the passion, to do.

3. The Goodness of God

If you do not know or believe that God is a good God (if you have a wrong perspective of the Lord), you will not be committed to Him. We all need a clear and Biblical revelation of the goodness of God for us.

If we miss out on this revelation, we will struggle. We will not have a vibrant relationship with God.

"Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes." Psalm 119:68.

A. Doing good

Acts 10:38 says, "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good,

and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

a) Jesus went about doing good, not evil. Why? Because He is a good God. In doing good, He was portraying His heart as well as that of the Father.

b) Healing is good. Jesus healed the sick many times.

c) He set free those who were **oppressed of the devil**. Notice that they were not oppressed of God, but of the devil.

B. The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy

John 10:10 says, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly."

a) Stealing, killing, and destroying such as bad things that happen to us, sickness, destruction, disease, lack, misery, pain, suffering, death is from Satan, not God. Jesus came to give life, not to take life. He gave it more abundantly.

C. Destroy the works of the devil

1 John 3:8 "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. **For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.**" (Emphasis mine)

a) This verse clearly shows you that Jesus is not on the same side as the devil. He came to destroy the evil works of the devil such as sickness, sin, and all the plunder we see today in the world.

b) **Not every work is a work of God. If that is so, then Jesus came to destroy His own work and the Father's.**

This verse shows that there is such a thing as the work of God and the work of the devil—not only one work, the work of God.

D. Every good and perfect gift

James 1:13-17 says, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

a) What kind of gifts come from God? Not bad or evil gifts, but rather good gifts. God is a good God who gives good gifts.

b) Anyone who thinks that the bad things come from God is in error because only good gifts come from God.

E. Not to destroy lives

Luke 9:51-56 "And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye, know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village."

a) These disciples wanted to do exactly what God allowed through Elijah in the Old Testament, but the response of Jesus was out of this world. It was a shock to the disciples. He told them that he did not come to destroy lives, but to save them.

b) How can you save those that you came to destroy and kill? Will any be left to die for?

c) The Word of God makes it clear repeatedly that God has no pleasure in death and destruction.

i) Ezekiel 18:32 says, "For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye."
(also see Ezekiel 18:30-31; Ezekiel 33:11).

F. Identity in Christ

a) Know who you are. Do not wrap your identity in what you do. You are not what you do. Until you detach who you are from what you do, you will find yourself lacking in commitment because sometimes you will do that which you do not like.

b)