



WHY NO COMMITMENT

POSSIBLE REASONS FOR NON-COMMITMENT IN CHURCHES AND WHAT TO DO

Part One

The very basic reason for non-commitment is a lack of obedience, love and trust in the Lord. It all goes back to a heart problem in fearing and loving the Lord as we should and having an intimate and personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Many that are saved don't sense the presence, power or peace from a passionate relationship with Christ.

(Deut. 10:12) And now, Israel, (or Christian) what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

COMMITMENT – (Webster's 1913 Unabridged English Dictionary)

The act of committing, or putting in charge, keeping, or trust;

Syn.—To Commit, Intrust, Consign. These words have in common the idea of transferring from one's self to the care and custody of another.

COMMIT- (The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)

Used in two senses:

- (1) "To give in charge" or "entrust": "that which he hath committed unto me," Greek "**my deposit**"; "that which is committed unto thee" (1 Tim. 6:20), Greek "**the deposit**".
- (2) "To do or practice - the King James Version "committeth sin" shows that it is not committing a single sin that is in view, but sinful practice.

In most churches there is a lack of commitment that in turn hinders the potential of those churches ministries. The lack of commitment is not just confined to those in the pew but also in the staff and pastoral position as well as in many church members. The reasons for lack of commitment are widely varied because of the enemies that we face (world-flesh-devil). These enemies are set against us warring and defeating our commitments.

Many churches try hard to get their people more committed and find that resistance is the outcome. It may be in the way that we try to "make" people have more commitment in their lives and to their churches that are the biggest hindrance to encouraging them to commit more. Commitment cannot be forced and beat into church members but rather exemplified and caught by those who are already yielded and committed unto the Lord and His church.

Commitment is a heart matter that only the Lord can change as we seek to know and please Him more. The more we love and follow Him; it is likely that our commitment will increase also in serving others through Christ. One of the best ways to help church members be more committed is to help them fall in love with the Lord more.

God bless and have a Spirit-filled week serving the Lord.

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SCM

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Part Two

(2 Tim. 2:2) And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

The *first* possible reason for non-commitment is that the *Leadership is not committed*. Again you heard it said everything rises or falls on leadership. We don't like to admit it but sometimes the church is not as committed because of a lack of commitment from the leadership in the church. This could include the pastor, staff, deacons, officers and down to the teachers and other workers in the leadership roles of the ministry. The church will not rise above its leadership. If leadership is lacking in an area of their commitment (pastor deacons, officers, teachers or any other leader), don't expect the members to commit.

Churches are filled with positions of leadership that are not committed to fulfill their calling or elected positions. They don't give themselves in commitment to serve as examples to others to follow, therefore teaching others how to be uncommitted in the church. I've seen pastors, officers and teachers show up late or just before the service starts and then wonder why people are not committed. Song leaders, special singers, ushers and the list could go on with those who are setting the wrong example of true commitment. Anyone in leadership should take their witness and examples to others very seriously if they want to see the church move forward in a healthy way.

Tips on commitment in leadership:

- **Evaluate your present leadership commitment** – many leaders are doing the same thing or less than they did in times past (years or decades).
- **Strive to become the best leader that God has called you to be** – one may have a gift of leading but that gift has to be developed for its greatest potential.
- **Don't count your place of leadership small or insignificant** – for one to be a good pastor, he had to be a good servant in many other areas of ministry before.
- **Be open to learn from other leaders** – someone said "Readers are Leaders" and I've found that many of our IBC's leaders are not good readers. Start or refresh yourself with good leadership materials. Learning is a part of good leadership.
- **Take on new disciplines related to your leadership calling or position** – we tend to get into ruts with how we do things. Start a new discipline relating to your leading.
- **Have high expectations for leadership** – many churches have good intentions about their leadership's expectations but fail to follow through with on how to correct, change or challenge the leaders to fulfill their expectations.
- **Remember that all good leaders were (are) good followers** – don't try to put someone in leadership that doesn't have a willing heart to follow present leadership.
- **There are no perfect leaders** – the goal is not perfection but faithfulness in growing and developing in spiritual maturity and assuming responsibility. Every leader should be maturing and perfecting their leadership skills to better serve the Lord and followers.

May we grow to be the best committed leader so that others can follow Christ with a more committed heart. A good leader will occasionally evaluate their leadership and seek ways to improve to be the best for those he serves. God bless and have a great week!

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Part Three

(Luke 14:28-30) For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient* to finish *it*? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish *it*, all that behold *it* begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

The second possible reason for non-commitment is that there is no Value or Worth to commit too. Most people want to know that what they are committing to is worth their commitment. We take for granted that people should just commit to anyone or anything just because we say so or that they are members of a local IB church. Unrealistic demands for commitment to someone or something that is not committed themselves is unreasonable.

There are churches and leaders that ask for commitment in many areas but lack to show the value and worth of the thing that they are asking people to commit too. By way of example many churches want their members to commit to some type of visitation. But they don't show them by example the importance or give them the proper training in how to invest their commitment. We ask people to commit to the same thing that hasn't been working for years and wonder why they don't make a commitment. Some church leaders continually ask for commitment for more money to do certain projects around the church. But after seeing the money spent or diverted to other things than what was designated, they are not as willing to commit any more.

There needs to be a sense of Value of Worth if leaders are seeking people to commit their time, talents and means to a certain thing that they believe is important and God has called them to do. Life is short and we need to make the best investment of our commitments to our Lord, our families, His church and to a lost world. Some buildings are not worth the commitment of trying to rebuild, but would be best if it was torn down and started over. Some may have value and worth and so making a commitment to rebuild would be the right thing to do.

Tips on making sure Commitment has Value and Worth:

- **Check the foundation** – if the project is worth committing too, you better have a good foundation – that's Jesus Christ. Many leaders with good intentions are asking people to commit to them or a project rather than Jesus Christ.
- **Use good materials** – these would be asking for commitments that are Bible based and prayerfully considered. Many leaders with good ambitions are just trying to get people to commit to some other leader or program that used to work.
- **Make sure progress is being made** – people are attracted to good construction projects. Don't start unless you're willing to finish the project you're asking people to commit themselves too.
- **Expect the unexpected** – no construction project goes without something coming up unexpected. Be flexible and make appropriate changes as needed to stay committed, this is for both leader and followers to stay focused to the challenge.
- **Be excited about the outcome** – excitement is contagious, if the leaders are not excited why should the follower. If it has value and worth, be excited about making and helping people make a commitment to see it through.
- **Praise those that have made commitments** – this encourages others to commit.

Before asking for commitment, help the people see the value and worth of what they will be committing too. God bless and have a great week in the Lord!

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Part Four

(Pro. 29:18) “Where *there is* no vision, the people perish:”

The *third* possible reason for non-commitment is that *there is No Vision to commit too*. Many churches are going through the motions of ministry without any clear vision for their future. Most people want to know that what they are committing to has a vision with a bright future and can clearly see its value for their commitment. We have many churches that have either lost or never had a clear vision for their church or ministries, therefore the members could not be excited about a commitment. This only breeds frustration, disappointments and discouragement to the members as well as the leadership.

A discouraged pastor with no vision leads a discouraged church with no vision, which in turn will not see a good future for themselves or their ministries. Somewhere or somehow the pastor has lost his vision from God for the church and must go back and seek the Lord again for a renewed vision for their church and ministries. The pastor also must learn how to share and convey his God given vision to those in the church. If the pastor and leadership of the church can't see a clear vision for the church and ministries, then the members will not catch much if anything at all. A God given vision is vital to any church or ministry that wants to move forward with an exciting future.

Tips on making sure there is a Vision for Commitment:

- **Learn what a vision looks like** – there are a lot of good books and materials on what's involved in what a God given vision is and looks like in a church or ministry. A God given vision is basically *a preferred future from God for the church and its ministries*.
- **Learn how to cast a vision** – for the church members to catch your vision you must first have one yourself and then share it with the church. This is not a demanded way of looking or doing things, but rather helping them to get in on what God has given you as a vision for the church. (much better to cast and catch than make hard demands)
- **Don't try to copy someone else's vision** – for many churches and pastors in the past their only vision was that of their former pastor or school. Each church is different and God will have a precise vision for that pastor and ministry. Not to say that there can't be some things that could work that are in other ministries, just don't copy everything and expect the same results. (don't try to impress people, just obey and please God)
- **Focus your vision around Jesus** – many times well intentioned pastors and churches get their eyes focused more on the vision than from the author of the vision. Their zeal for a vision and the intergrading into the church becomes the main focus for them, rather than a real relationship with the Lord for themselves and the church members.
- **Reality in your vision** – the vision will be in line with you and the churches gifts, abilities, resources and faith that one can believe the Lord for a better future. God doesn't bless people with a vision that are not submitted, humble and willing to do what He shows them already. (If we don't act on what we already know, why be shown more?)

For many pastors and churches there is just a need for repentance and a renewal of doing what the Lord has already shown through (vision / Bible). There will be no new vision until the fulfilling of the old or present vision is obeyed (obeying scripture). **(James 4:17)** Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin. May we consider now what the Lord has already given us as a vision for the church and ministries and by faith get busy doing it.

Have a great week serving the Lord with “gladness”!

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Part Five

(Heb.5:12-14) “such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat - for he is a babe”

The *forth* possible reason for non-commitment is that *there is Immaturity* in those we are trying to get commitments. For many churches there is just a real need for their members to grow in the Lord before they are willing to commit to very much in the church. Immature children are not likely to commit themselves to doing much or making a lasting commitment when they do. We see a lot of immature decisions as well as commitments for the church and the Lord's service today. They may be well intended, but lack the knowledge or grounding that will help them fulfill their commitments.

For good lasting commitments many times people need to just grow in their own personal relationship with the Lord. Just because a person has been a long time member of a church doesn't make them a spiritually mature believer. Spiritual growth has the potential to work out into new and more spiritual commitments as one grows in the Lord. The natural process is that one will grow and mature and then take on more responsibility in life as children should grow up into adult hood. In believers there should be a corresponding growth process that as they grow spiritually in the Lord they will take on more responsibility and commitments. Many times we just need to help people to grow and have a closer relationship with the Lord, which may in turn result in better commitments.

Tips on helping believers Grow and Mature for Commitments:

- **The question leaders need to ask** – am I growing as their leader in any of the areas that they need to follow? Leaders need to lead by example. Am I growing?
- **Given them a balanced diet** – church members have been given a steady diet of just a few things that the leader is really partial in, according to his preferences. People with hearts filled with unforgiveness will not likely do much soul-winning. Balance service and standards with love and grace helping people to see, believe and giving time to grow.
- **Help them to exercise themselves** – some leaders are hands on with everything in the ministry and have a difficult time delegating to others. Let the people use their God given gifts and talents in service of the church, even if they don't do it just like you think it should be done.
- **Hold them lovingly accountable** – children really want to know that their parents care enough to correct them in a loving way. Being held accountable helps us to be more responsible and grow with our commitments.
- **Handle them with a shepherd's heart** – some leaders try to demand or force with false guilt an unreasonable commitment upon the members. A good shepherd will nurture and encourage the sheep to follow with a willing heart the Lord first then their leadership.
- **Care and love them when they fail or make mistakes** – people will do both, just be there for them when it happens. Who hasn't gone through these learning experiences and with the right results will help us grow and mature?

In the “8 Revitalization Essentials” commitment is #5 but for a lot of leaders they want it to be #1 instead. Before believers grow in “Humility, Prayer, Filling of the Spirit and Biblical Living” they are not as willing to make lasting commitments. As leaders help their people to grow and mature in the Lord they will see a more reasonable Christian that is willing to make better commitments. We can only help them to grow, but it's the Lord through His Word and the Holy Spirit that really produces their maturity. Have a blessed week in the Lord!

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