

Commitment vs Involvement

(Commitment Series Part 1)

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THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

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Most people are wary of making commitments. However, it is virtually impossible to live life and not commit to something – relationships, marriage, jobs, bank transactions etc. When it comes to our relationship with God, He requires commitment. Commitment is a pledge that alludes to the state or instance of being obligated to a cause. All too often we fail to live up to our commitment to Jesus Christ. Let us pray for the grace to become committed servants.

1. COMMITMENT vs INVOLVEMENT.

1.1. Involvement means the condition of participating in something. People are involved in an abundance of things (church, work, studies, dancing, sports, clubs) which consume much time. To be involved is to stay as long as we are happy with what we are getting. However, we start to look out for something better when we are not satisfied with the benefit to us.

1.2. Commitment means a promise, a vow, an obligation. It requires us to give all that we have. Jesus showed His commitment, "I will see it through no matter how much pain I must bear."

1.3. Peter was committed to Jesus to establish the earthly kingdom - "I'm ready to go to prison and die with you (Lk 22). Jesus knew that Peter will be a great leader. However, when Peter saw Jesus arrested, his ambition was crushed; he reacted by cutting of the ear of the man.

2. **Artificial commitment** (Lk 9:57) – looks real, but it is a bad imitation. There are 3 types:

2.1. Showy – person is first to volunteer, boldly says "I am there." But he/she does not realize the cost in terms of his time, relationships.

2.2 Shallow – "I have to take care of my family first; if I have any time left, I will be there" (Lk 9:57-62). It is a dangerous thing to put family status before God. God demands first place in our heart; He wants exclusivity. He may remove anything that we put in His place. God first, above all else (Rom 12).

2.3 Silly – "I'll come if I have nothing else to do" (Lk 9:62).

3. **Authentic Commitment** – will be in it for the long haul. We must deny ourselves and take up our cross daily (Lk 9:23). Characteristics of authentic commitment:

3.1 Forsake self – to put aside one's personal desires to think of others (Phil. 2). Jesus placed our welfare above His own.

3.2 Focus spiritually - to glorify God in everything we do. We must do everything without grumbling.

Conclusion:

Jesus committed until death (Phil 2:5-8). He suffered died on the cross. He lay down His life for us (1John 3:16). Therefore, let us continue to serve the Lord. We cannot even come close to paying Him back.

Reflection:

1. How is your commitment going? Are you committed or just involved?
2. Are you willing to deny yourself to fulfill your commitment to Jesus?

Prayer:

Lord, teach us to become committed servants who are authentic and true. Allow us to recommit our lives, our time to you. Today, we would like to commit ourselves to your Son Jesus. May we serve You with all our heart and soul.