

Lesson 12

COMMITMENT



1. AS CHRISTIANS TO WHOM AND WHAT ARE WE TO COMMIT OUR LIVES?

The Bible teaches that when we surrender our lives to Jesus Christ through repentance and water baptism, we are placed in His Body, the Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit we are to function in that Body and commit our selves to its growth.

2. HOW DO WE FIND OUR PLACE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST?

A. First of all, we must see that Jesus Christ PLACES us in His Body as it pleases Him (I Corinthians 12:18-27). As there is a physical birth and growth, so there is a spiritual birth and growth (John 3:3,5; and I Peter 1:23). As children differ in personality and ability within a family, so there is diversity within God's family, His Body, the Church. (I Corinthians 12:4-6)

B. Each member has a DIFFERENT FUNCTION, like the members of our physical body. The hand differs from the ear or foot in function, but not in importance, so too in the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:14-25). For example, if we are a teacher, we should not strive to be a prophet (just as a hand does not strive to be an eye).

C. We should seek to have our calling and placement confirmed by submitting to the PRESBYTERY of our local Church (I Timothy 4:14). This should be done after completion of our basic foundational class, “Understanding God.”

3. HOW DOES COMMITMENT TO THE BODY OF CHRIST CAUSE US TO FROW?

A. Our relationship to Jesus Christ must begin with a **FOUNDATION** of commitment (Hebrews 6:12)

B. A continuing commitment must be developed and strengthened in relationship to **MEMBERS IN PARTICULAR** (Acts 2:42 and Hebrews 10:25). This is done not only in worship services but in home fellowships and through laboring together in the various ministries, such as, choir, orchestra, youth, serving tables, ushering and teaching.

C. Commitment and relationships to members in particular requires SUBMISSION to:

(1) The authority of God's Word---I Peter 1:22 and I John 1:5-7

(2) The authority of those over us in ministry--- Hebrews 13:7-9

Note: The absence of absolutes in today's society has weakened its sense of community, solidarity and unity. THE WORD OF GOD IS AN ABSOLUTE STANDARD for life, community and peace.

D. Commitment produces RESPONSIBILITY to:

- (1) Seek God's calling and His will---Ephesians 4:1-7; I Thessalonians 2:11-12; and II Peter 1:10.
- (2) Acknowledge God's ownership--- I Corinthians 6:19-20; Malachi 3:8-11; Hebrews 7:1-8; and Matthew 6:25-33.
- (3) Reach out through hospitality and giving---I Peter 4:8-9.

E. Commitment involves RECONCILIATION (II Corinthians 5:19). The Lord Jesus commits unto us His Word. We should take this seriously. Paul tells us:

... God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath COMMITTED unto us the word of reconciliation.

Our job is two-fold in connection with this command. First, we are to be bold to share our faith with others who are in the world by word and action. Second, we are to commit this word to other faithful men whom we have influenced and taught, that they might become committed to reconciling the lost (1 Timothy 1:18).