

Committing My Life

Rick Warren

I. Introduction.

- A. Americans are committed only to individual freedom and options, which are not much of anything.
- B. Commitment is the key to a successful life.

II. Make the rest of your life the best of your life. (I Peter 4:2, Romans 6:14)

- A. One has never really experienced life until he has experienced God's favor.
- B. Commitment means to give all that a person is to another's use.

III. The basis of commitment.

- A. God shaped every person for a purpose.
- B. God knows what is best for a person.
- C. We should commit because we are grateful for our salvation.
- D. God promises to reward our commitment. (Proverbs 3:6)

IV. Reasons we do not commit to God.

- A. Short term values. (Mark 4:19)
 - 1. The attraction of this world.
 - 2. The delights of power.
 - 3. The search for success.
 - 4. The lure of possessions.
 - 5. The ultimate test of values is whether they last. (I John 2:17)
- B. Past failures.
 - 1. God loves to use failures.
 - 2. The past is past.
- C. Being self-absorbed.
 - 1. The self-absorbed life is a miserable life. (Proverbs 14:14)

2. Jesus teaches that one must give his life away in order not to lose it.

D. Fear.

1. This is the most common barrier.

2. God commits Himself to our responsibility when we commit ourselves to Him.
(Matthew 6)

V. What one must do to commit oneself to God.

A. Consider the cost. (Luke 14)

1. We give up the right to do whatever we want to do with our lives.

2. We give up control of our resources.

3. We give up the pursuit of the world's values.

4. If we do not give up our lives to Christ we lose our purpose, the joy of expressing our God-given shape and eternal salvation.

5. There is a price to pay on either side. (Romans 12)

B. Make a life commitment. (Acts 13:36)

Application questions:

1. Which reason for a failure to commit resonates the most with your experience? Why?

2. Which cost do you find most challenging to face with regard to commitment?

3. Are you ready to make a commitment today? Write down a commitment to the Lord and sign it if you are ready to make a total commitment to the Lord.
