

Characteristics of a Committed Christian

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 21:15-21.

B. It is one thing to be saved and another thing to be a fully committed disciple of Jesus Christ.

C. There are four factual characteristics of commitment.

D. Key questions are answered in John 21.

1. Jesus provides beyond the disciples needs after the resurrection.

2. Peter is restored to a place of leadership among the apostles.

3. John's long life is explained.

II. His work is compelled by love.

A. Love is the great thing that moves the people of Jesus into service. (2 Corinthians 5, Romans 1)

B. Peter's commission needed to be public because his denial was public.

C. Jesus confronts Peter with his love because this is the compelling thing that will drive him to serve him.

D. Jesus was glad to accept Peter's love if he was humble enough to recognize it was not where it needed to be.

E. We should not claim to love Jesus if we are not busy doing his will.

F. Jesus only wounds so that he might heal. He challenged Peter's love so that he might serve him.

III. His way is controlled by God.

A. The committed Christian gives God control. (Psalm 37:5)

B. Real commitment is willing to accept whatever destiny is given.

IV. His will is content with following.

A. The committed Christian wants nothing more than to follow Jesus.

B. The one key to the Christian life is to follow Jesus.

1. This is being where Jesus is. (John 12:26)

2. This is to pattern our lives after Jesus. (Matthew 5:46)

3. This is willingness to suffer for Jesus. (Matthew 10; 16)

C. It all begins with the crucifixion of the ego.

D. We are to be occupied with the will of God for our lives and not others.

V. His words are concerned with Jesus.

A. It is a great testimony to have someone say that a person always goes around testifying about Jesus.

B. The committed Christian is preoccupied with Jesus.

Application Questions:

1. What is the relationship between service and love?

2. What areas are most difficult for you to give over to God?

3. How can you encourage a fellow believer to better face suffering? Explain.
