

Commitment

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I. Introduction.

- A. The Christian life is warfare.
- B. We are called to be soldiers for Christ.
- C. There are casualties in this war. (II Timothy)
- D. Commitment is the key to winning.
- E. Text: John 12:23-26.

II. Commitment as death.

- A. When a seed is buried, it disintegrates—it dies to itself.
- B. To die means to lose one's own identity.
- C. People are seeds, the field is the world and the farmer is Jesus. (Matthew 13:37-38)
- D. People who have died have abiding fruit in their lives.

III. Commitment as hatred.

- A. When we “hate” our lives, we deny our wills in favor of God's.
- B. Our life is the sum total of all our relationships and possessions. (Luke 14:25-33)
- C. This means that by way of comparison to our love for Jesus we “hate” our other relationships.
- D. We cannot take our possessions with us. Covetousness is a condition of the human heart found in every strata of society.
- E. We must live with open hands—we are pilgrims in this world.
- F. Christ will enrich all our relationships if we follow Him.

IV. Commitment as service.

- A. Until one knows where Jesus is he cannot follow Him. (Matthew 4:19, Acts 10:38)

B. Jesus is about serving.

C. We must ask Jesus how He wants us to serve.

D. We have to show faithfulness in what is another man's before we can have our own ministry. (Luke 16:12)

V. Conclusion.

Application questions:

1. What does it mean to "die" to oneself?

2. What things are difficult for you to possess with open hands?

3. How can you maximize your service to God? Explain.
