

Commitment

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I. Introduction.

- A. There are casualties in spiritual warfare. (Ephesians 6:10-20, I Peter 5:8-9, John 10:10)
- B. It is possible that we can be spiritual casualties.
- C. There are ways to avoid being a spiritual casualty, and one of those is commitment.
- D. Text: John 12:23-26.

II. Commitment as death.

- A. When a seed is buried it disintegrates—it dies to itself.
- B. Believers are the fruit of Jesus' death.
- C. We must “die” denying all inner reservations to do whatever it takes to reach others.
 - 1. People are seeds, the field is the world and the farmer is Jesus. (Matthew 13:37-38)
 - 2. Fruitfulness is producing more from more.
- D. Dying is a process and we must die repeatedly.

III. Commitment is 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.
- C. Every relationship and possession is brought to Christ for blessing or disapproval. (Malachi 3:10, John 17:7)

IV. Commitment is 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. Leaders were empowered only when they earned their place through service. (Exodus 24:13, I Kings 19, II Kings 2)

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

V. Conclusion. (Joshua 24:15)

Application questions:

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

2. How would you distinguish hatred of one's relationship in comparison to love for Jesus and animosity towards others?

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