

# 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?

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

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

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