

Personal Commitment

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I. Introduction.

- A. The Christian life is warfare.
- B. We are called to be soldiers for Christ.
- C. Commitment is the key to winning.
- D. Text: John 12:23-26.

II. Commitment as death.

- A. When a seed is buried, it disintegrates—it dies to itself.
- B. What it means to die.
 - 1. People are seeds, the field is the world and the farmer is Jesus. (Matthew 13:37-38)
 - 2. To die means to become completely available to Jesus Christ and his work in the world.
- C. Fruitfulness is multiplication of disciples of Jesus.

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. Covetousness has nothing to do with wealth—it has to do with an inner condition of the heart.
- D. We must live with open hands—we are pilgrims in this world.

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. Leaders were empowered only when they earned their place through service. (Exodus 24:13, I Kings 19, II Kings 2:12-14, II Corinthians 8:5)

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

V. Conclusion.

A. The consequences of an uncommitted life are tragic.

B. Resolve to live for the glory of God.

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.
