

Part 4: Crossing the Line of Commitment Terry Golden, Pastor of Administration April 25 & 26, 2009

What is biblical commitment?

- Biblical commitment is defined in God's <u>character</u>
 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son... John 3:16a
 [God] will never leave you nor forsake you. Deuteronomy 31:6
- God designed us to be <u>committed</u>

 So God created man in his own image. Genesis 1:27a
- Some of the commitments God makes are <u>conditional</u> (they depend on the behavior of others)

...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. – 2 Chronicles 7:14

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. — Malachi 3:10-11

- Some of the commitments God makes are <u>unconditional</u> (Genesis 9:8-17; Genesis 17
- The capacity to commit comes from God through the <u>Holy Spirit</u> (Acts 1:4-8)

"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"— Luke 11:13

One commitment we all should make:

A commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses."

Jesus is calling us to commit by:

- Getting in the game (Acts 1:8, Acts 5)
- Becoming "Kingdom-Bringers"
 - ...your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10

How can I be a "Kingdom-Bringer"?

If you have decided in your heart today to commit to be a follower of Jesus, to no longer ignore him or be a Jesus-user, to get in the game and be a Kingdom-Bringer, then the following actions will help you.

Commit to pray every day

Consider keeping a prayer journal to record your prayers and God's answers to them. A simple structure for effective prayer is "ACTS":

Adoration Simply acknowledge God for who he is, his

greatness, his holiness

Confession Confess any sin in your life and ask for forgiveness

and deliverance

Thanksgiving Thank God for all his gifts to us, his creation, his

provision, his salvation, his answers to your prayers

Supplication Ask God to supply your needs

Commit to read and meditate on the Bible every day

Read something from scripture every day and meditate on what God would have you understand from it. A Bible reading calendar is often helpful to keep you on track.

Commit to serve others

A great place to begin serving is in the church. Here at CTK there are a number of volunteer opportunities where you can "get in the game." Start by looking through the opportunities in the Weekly Program and Midweek Connection e-mail. Also, check out the Discovery Class described on page 5 of What's Happening, and Engage on page 32.

On Your Way Home

As you're driving home today, remember God's commitment that he will never leave us nor forsake us. Discuss how that makes you feel.

Small Group Discussion Questions

- 1. Have you ever been cut off in traffic? How bad was it? How did you react?
- 2. Share a time when someone did not fulfill a commitment they made to you and left you holding the bag. How did that affect your relationship with them?
- 3. What is the biggest commitment you have ever made? Was it conditional or unconditional? Why?
- 4. If you were to take a big step to get in the game, what would that look like? How would you see yourself as a Kingdom-Bringer?
- 5. How can we pray for you tonight?