

Involvement or Commitment?

Joe Slater

You've heard the story about the hen and the pig who saw a sign along the road promoting a benefit breakfast for a worthy charity. "We ought to help with that," said the hen. "I could give some eggs, and you could donate a ham." The pig replied, "For you, that's involvement; for me, it's a commitment!"

Which is it for you as a Christian? Are you committed, or merely involved? Jesus calls us to be committed.

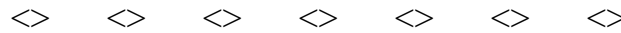
"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it; and he who loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matthew 10:37-39).

In keeping with these words from Jesus, someone came up with a short test to determine what our top priorities really are. Just ask yourself: "Would I give up my life for this?" Many of us, perhaps all, would die for family and for country. Would we die for Jesus, for the truth, and for the church?

Chances are that you won't die for anything you won't live for. Such commitment as would motivate you to give your life for family members will also inspire you to provide for them, spend time with them, and protect them. Likewise, the loyalty to country that would influence you to put your life on the line in a foxhole will also compel you to vote, pray for government officials, and be honest in paying your taxes.

Just so, a genuine willingness to die for Jesus will be accompanied by a life committed to Him. So often we allow every mundane thing under heaven to impede our service to Him. Some extra money, a ball game, an extra hour or two of sleep – any or all of these may take a higher priority than Christ and His cause. When that happens, how likely is it that we're really sincere about being willing to die for Him?

Committed Christians will certainly be involved; but many folks are involved to one degree or another without really being committed. Jesus seeks your commitment to Him. Now it's up to you.



Have You Prayed?

Our Lord made it very clear to the people who first followed Him that they were to ask God to meet their needs. Shouldn't we?

Genuine, heart-felt prayer can produce powerful changes in our lives and the world. When we lift up our hearts to God, asking for His wisdom, we open ourselves up to a great source of wisdom and love.

Do you have questions about today? Questions about your future that you can't answer? Questions about choices or decisions you'll soon have to make? Needs that you can't satisfy by yourself?

Have you sought God's wisdom? Have you asked for direction? Protection? Strength? Courage?

If you have done so, do you consistently ask for His wisdom? Our God is perfectly capable of answering your prayers, but first, you must ask.

Find some time today to read James 1:5. Think about it. Put it into practice.

--Chad Ezelle (via *Voice of Truth International*)

What is the Will of God?

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2).

Many years ago Bible translator, J. B. Phillips, wrote a book titled "Your God Is Too Small." It was a very insightful book, and certainly demolished many misconceptions about God. Getting a good understanding of God is critical for the way we live our lives.

In the ancient pagan world, men created gods with super-human powers, but also with human imperfections. These gods were capricious, unpredictable, and required appeasement with, not only animal sacrifices, but also human sacrifices.

The Biblical concept of God is pure, with no human imperfections attributed to Him. His will is perfect as well, and God requires that we seek to discover it by a godly life. We should never be surprised when people who have a warped idea of God make some serious moral blunders.

Today, we witness even Christians, who have such a limited understanding of God's word, justifying whatever the world approves. It may be abortion, multiple marriages, cohabitation, or gay marriage. They can't believe a good God would condemn them for the sincere decisions they make.

Paul demands that the Christian prove what the good and perfect will of God is. The word "prove" means "put to the test, examine." In other words, God's will is self-authenticating. It will prove itself through scrutiny. But just as forensic evidence must be examined by an expert, not just anyone can "put to the test" God's will. A sinful, rebellious person cannot see the evidence because the darkness of sin has blinded his eyes. One who transforms his life through the power of God has a sanctified mind, and has clearer vision to see the evidence that will authenticate God's will as good and perfect and acceptable.

"O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!" (Psalm 34:8)

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