

BIBLE STUDY

Weekly

Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Lesson & Time: 6:30 pm

Facilitator: Pastor Rodney T. Morton



DISCIPLESHIP - CHURCH MEMBERSHIP & COMMITMENT

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22

The church is pictured as a nation ("fellow citizens," 2:19), a family ("a household"), and a "building" (2:21). This new building is "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone" (2:20).

The purpose of the church is for believers to be "built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit" (2:22).

I. What is the meaning of the word "commitment?" (Devotion or faithfulness to some cause or person).

- A. To be committed to someone is to cleave to, to adhere to, to be attached to, to join oneself closely to or to stick to the side of another.
- B. In the Greek language, the concept of commitment implied a gluing together, affirm fastening and a giving of oneself steadfastly to another.

The three Hebrews boys—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—stood for the Lord against a whole nation. Though it meant the fiery furnace, they were willing to stand. When they stood for God, He stood with them.

Would you be willing to stand for the Lord even though it meant your life? These boys did just that. Pleasing God meant more to these boys than their very lives. This type of dedication pleases God.

II. What ways do Christians demonstrate commitment to each other?

The Bible lists many responsibilities that Christians have one to another.

- A. There are many things Christians do toward one another because of this commitment.
 - 1. They love one another (I Pet.1:22).(Romans 14:15) Hence, one way to show brotherly love is by refraining from imposing our personal likes or dislikes on others. (Galatians 6:1). Oftentimes, when a believer falls, it becomes no more than constant gossip within the Christian body. We must remember that the fallen brother or sister still belongs to the family of God.
 - 2. They comfort one another (I Th.5:11). Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing. Be a Good Listener, Be Empathetic, Be an Advocate, Be Private, Be a Giver, Be Kind, Be aware.

3. They exhort one another (Heb. 10:24-25). And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
 4. They build up one another (Rom. 14:19). Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.
 5. They admonish one another (Col. 3:16). Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
 6. They serve one another (Gal. 5:13). For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
 7. They forgive one another (Eph. 4:32). And be you kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.
 8. They submit to one another (I Pet. 5:5). Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."
 9. In addition, they pray for one another, bear one another's burdens, have compassion one to another and are kindly affectionate one to another.
- B. There are many things Christians do not do to each other because of this commitment.
1. They do not condemn or criticize each other (Rom. 14:13). Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.
 2. They do not go to law with each other (I Cor. 6:1-8).
 3. They do not speak evil of one another (Jam. 4:11). Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.
 4. They do not envy one another (Gal. 5:26). Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.
 5. They do not hurt or do anything that would harm another (Gal. 5:14-15). For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!