

Christian Commitment as family message 2020

Today we want to share about the importance of commitment in the family of God- the church. Do you belong to a loving committed family? I hope you do but the family of God should be the best example of it.

Key verses

Ephesians 3:6-21 New International Version (NIV)

⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs **together** with Israel, members together of **one body**, and sharers **together** in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ His intent was that now, **through the church**, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³ I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every **family**^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ **may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people**, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ **to him be glory in the church** and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Hebrews 10:19-25 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened

for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ **And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.**

We are saved to be one body made up of many different parts to be a glory to His name.

Introduction

Family is the biggest goal of the Lord Jesus. He wants family. Lots of family. In the early church the apostle Paul had established churches all over Asia minor, which is Western Turkey. The Antioch church was in Syria. Ephesians for the church in Ephesus, Galatians for the church in Galatia, Philippians for Philippi, Colossians for Colossae, all for churches with the intention to keep them going strong. He told them not to forsake the assembling as some do. He told them this as persecution came and the Jews were going after them. Paul was watched and persecuted by Jews frequently. The church in Rome hid in the Roman catacombs. Paul shares in different books including Philippians of how he treasured the churches and their help.

It started with Jesus then the twelve disciples, then the 70 who were sent out and did great things, then the 120 at Pentecost and then thousands, then millions. All became His family but each one still needed to be connected personally in the body of Christ-the church. Jesus wanted that and we see the same emphasis in how Paul's and the other disciples' ministry went. The books of the new testament were written to parts of the body of Christ-the church family who would need to be connected thru local churches where the family could grow and expand. We are to learn from them just as they did in their time. Have you ever been so committed to something that it made everything else seem insignificant? That is being totally focused. Jesus' goal of us being committed to the family of God should be like that in our lives. Everything we do should have His flavour in it.

Jesus taught that your highest priority must be your relationship with Him. If anything detracts you from that relationship, that activity is not from God. God will not ask you to do something that hinders your relationship with Christ.

Henry Blackaby

We show we are committed to God by our commitment to each other-The family of God because that is how the work of God gets done. It is thru his people that He works. That has always been His way. We are the most powerful and effective when doing it together.

Deuteronomy 28:7-9 New International Version (NIV)

⁷ The LORD will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.

⁸ The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

⁹ The LORD will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the LORD your God and walk in obedience to him.

You must remember, family is often born of blood, but it doesn't depend on blood. Nor is it exclusive of friendship. Family members can be your best friends, you know. And best friends, whether or not they are related to you, can be your family.

Trenton Lee Stewart

When we come to church, are we coming because of duty or because we want to celebrate with the others in our family? Are we coming to show we have it all together? Are we ok with others having an off day and being an encouragement to them? Family means we are ok with each other's interesting and sometimes annoying ways of being and doing things. We care if someone feels weak today or is having trouble today. We want to strengthen whenever possible and to celebrate in worship to God because God is so amazing and good to us. We also want to be together so we can grow together, get closer bonds, and find ways to be more effective for Jesus in community.

1 Corinthians 14:26 New International Version (NIV)

²⁶ What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.

Jesus message to us all is, all who are humbly called by my name are needed for my work. I have a special work for each of you in my kingdom and I need you to sign up for me. I have gifts to give you which provide tools and skills so you can do what I ask, more effectively, I have unconditional love for you and everyone in Heaven is cheering you on to greatness. But I need you, you need each other, and the world needs me. Just come, meet together, seek me, and I will show you why together is so important. **Look how good it feels to be together again.**

Jesus wants to give you even more than this.

Commitment back in the early church could mean prison or worse but gathering was more important. Why? Because of family (each other), the message of Jesus getting out and the church growing together. They were even prepared to die for their commitment to the Saviour of their lives and to each other.

What is commitment like today?

It is essential in establishing Jesus' church together, developing family, and gathering safely. Back then, safety meant not getting arrested. Gathering safely today is keeping healthy. All can be accomplished with Jesus. Effectiveness for Jesus can also be done in both scenarios. Commitment to Jesus work and each other is just as critical today as it was then. People were dying then just as they are now, without Jesus. Sickness and possible harm are the same.

The issue

Are we focused on the strength Jesus brings as we meet together. Are we focused on why the together matters? It is to build up each other, for unity, for multiplied strength and to grow the Christian witness in our community. Don't let your light be dimmer because of not gathering. Don't let Satan sell you the idea that not gathering is ok and in so doing, other believers are less strong. The Lord doesn't want His witness to dim or for the focus on

greater works to not happen. Let's move forward into greater things not the same or former.

Commitment to God means we are committed as family

Ephesians 2:14-22 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building **is joined together** and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And **in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.**

A state of being and active

To be committed to each other as family is not just a state of being but an active one as well. We are family because of the blood of Christ. He has bought us and paid the price. It is important for us to feel like and act like family and that can take work and effort to build into relationship. It involves investment of time and heart. That takes commitment to make others feel like they are a part of your family the family of God. God wants us to feel that because we have it with Him and His family is all of us who know Jesus as our Saviour-Christ like ones. We need to be committed 100% to making His love felt in the family. Jesus wants us to be committed to see peace, joy, healing, strong faith, protection of the family, and the expansion of the family. What part is He asking you to be a part of today?

Romans 12:10 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Galatians 5:13 New International Version (NIV)

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh^[a]; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Conclusion

You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them.

Desmond Tutu

We don't choose God's family for us either. Jesus says to us, commit to me and to my family because they are mine. I love my whole family and my desire and goal is that they are completely committed to me and to each other so that the world may know they are mine and may know my love too.

John 17:22-23 New International Version (NIV)

²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Totally committed to God means being totally committed to the family of God.

We all benefit from that and so does the Lord because family is everything to Him. It is really amazing when the body of Christ-the church can all feel like family. It is to be strived for. It is to fight for.

Let's commit to each other in several ways. That we will prayer for each other, that we will work to build each other up and that we will seek to be committed to God's agenda of reaching the lost so God's family grows. Amen.

Commitment series

Commitment to god means we are committed as family

As team

As an army

Romans 14:13 New International Version (NIV)

¹³ Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.