

The New Covenant With God's People

Sunday Morning, April 17, 2016

“Unless Commitment is made, there are only promises and hopes ... but no plans.”

Peter Drucker

Management Consultant, Educator, and Author, whose writings contributed to the philosophical and practical foundations of the modern business corporation.

To the average person failure to keep a commitment and complete an agreement seems small and trivial. However I feel that every Commitment we make and/or break has a direct impact on our integrity, character and ultimately the success or failure of our life.

As Christians, we are not only in a Covenant with God or a Commitment to God as I spoke about last week, but we are also in a Covenant or Commitment with God's people as a result of our Covenant with God.

According to Mark Wright, a professional leadership coach, "Commitment is about your word being congruent with your action. This requires a high degree of personal discipline. It is the driving force, the catalyst that propels you forward to live into and manage the integrity of your word and follow through on your actions into the future. Commitment is being accountable for honoring your promises, words and actions. It is the discipline that carries you across the bridge when you don't feel like doing it. Whenever you make promises with yourself and/or with others, it causes Commitment. Commitment causes one to be responsible and at the same time it is extraordinarily effective and valuable in creating self-discipline.

Commitment is like the transmission of a motor vehicle. Your vehicle could have the most powerful, efficient engine. However without a transmission it won't go anywhere. This is the same as endeavoring to have an intention without making a commitment.

Commitment causes you to create accountability, existence structure – an action plan, 'road map', a step-by-step process to manage and fulfill the integrity of your word.

Let's look at some scripture to learn about our Covenant with God's people or our Commitment to them...

(I Peter 2: 9 – 10)

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. **Note: Exegetical text**

Therefore, since we are a chosen people of God...

(Hebrews 10: 23 – 25)

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

25 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.

"Stir up" in Greek = to provoke or incite

Together we are to stand firm in the salvation we share in Christ and show genuine love for one another.

Paul reminded the Corinthians of this in...

(I Corinthians 16: 13 – 14)

13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

14 Let all that you do be done with love.

Together we are called to be concerned for each other, especially for common needs and spiritual well being.

(Acts 2: 44 – 47)

44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people.

And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

(Philippians 2:4)

Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

We are to come together not only for times of worship, but also for various gatherings we have through ministries and functions of our church.

Only by being around each other in various events in the church and personal times of fellowship together outside of church, can we develop genuine relationships that result in bonding us together in love.

(John 13: 34 – 35)

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Our love for one another in genuine practice and truth is key for us to be clearly identified in this world as His people.

This will proclaim praise to God by the living experiences we share in Him.

Call to Action:

- ✝ Are you committed to God's people? _____
- ✝ Are you committed to Worshiping regularly with God's people? _____
- ✝ Are you committed to studying God's Word with God's people? _____
- ✝ Are you committed to serving with God's people? _____
- ✝ Are you committed to serving God's People? _____
- ✝ Are you committed to praying for God's people? _____

Today, and any day in the future take the "Requests for Prayer or Help Or Volunteer to Help" Card provided in your Bulletin or in the Foyer and pray about what God would have you to commit to on the card regarding your commitment to God's People, complete the card and place it the black box in Foyer.