

The church's sub-theme for this quarter is "commitment". What is "commitment"? It means the holding up of a belief, and also the proactive taking up of responsibilities for life.

The word "commitment" is a terminology used in marriage, referring to a covenant of love between two people. It means that a person entrusts his/her whole life to the one he/she trusts, so that in his/her life there is not only himself/herself. "Commitment" is about the expression of faithfulness, full involvement, and non-separation. If necessary, the person is willing to give up his/her life. Therefore, commitment is the signing of a permanent covenant with one's life.

The Bible uses marriage to symbolize the relationship between Jesus Christ and believers. Jesus Christ established the covenant with His life (He died on the cross for our sins). The relationship between Christ and believers is a full commitment. Therefore, our attitude toward Christ should also be a full commitment to Him.

We are now living in a time of instant gratification, a time in which every body only cares about his/her own interests. We will be ridiculed if we talk about "commitment". Therefore we are living in a time in which no one cares to keep a promise, or to persist something firmly. However, as Christians are a group of people specially chosen by God and having His image, they should uphold the spirit of commitment. A faith without the spirit of commitment is as worse as an impure marriage. Furthermore, commitment should be reflected physically as well as spiritually. While it is not a true commitment if a couple do not have the same thinking; neither are we a true follower with commitment if we do not follow the Lord whole-heartedly. Therefore, Jesus Christ reminds us in Luke 16:13 that "no servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Therefore we should make a choice seriously -- as Joshua did -- between the "World" or God. Joshua said he had made a decision of faithfulness, i.e. "but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord". (Joshua 24:15)

Today we should, like Joshua, be faithfully committed to Christ and put Him at the top of our life priority. What should we do so that we are committed to Christ?

### 1. To bear fruits

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes." (John 15:1-2)

If we want to be committed to Christ, we should be linking to Him, remaining in Him, trusting in Him, drawing near to Him, getting love and power from Him; living a holy life, getting rid of the control of the world, enjoying the freedom in Him.



### 2. To be committed to church

Before he was crucified, Jesus said to the disciples, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35)

"Loving one another" is the command given by Jesus Himself; so it can be regarded as a symbol of the church, and also the way to establish the church. This will be the best testimony if a group of believers love one another.

The church still has a great commission to accomplish i.e. to evangelise, which shall require the full involvement of all participants. How can the church fulfil the Great Commission if none of the church members is committed?

Apostle Peter depicted the church as a lively spiritual house and each believer as a living stone therein, while Apostle Paul described the church as a body of which each believer is a part. What is emphasized in both of these two analogies is the “wholeness”; therefore any individual part which is not committed shall be a traitor of the whole body. Despite that we are living in an era of individualism in which people will ignore other people’s functions, Christians should not have this kind of mentality. We should be aware that today’s church lacks of good testimony and is less powerful because there are too little believers who are willing to be committed to the church.

Brothers and sisters, I hope that we are willing to respond to God’s love because He had sent His only son, Jesus Christ, to save us and give us new life; that we are willing to be committed to Christ and the church, so that the church can grow prosperously.