

**BECOMING A GENUINE CHRIST-FOLLOWER – PART 4
COMMITTING MY LIFE COMPLETELY TO CHRIST**

Pastor Rick Reager – November 15, 2020

I. TYPICAL IDENTIFIABLE LEVELS OF COMMITMENT TO JESUS

1. _____ : **THE FLESH REJECTS GOD UNTIL HE** _____
2. _____ : **REALIZING I NEED** _____
3. _____ : **RECOGNIZING JESUS AS** _____
4. _____ : _____ **TO JESUS FOR SALVATION**
5. _____ : **INCORPORATING** _____ **OF GOD'S WORD INTO MY LIFE**
6. _____ : **SOLD OUT COMMITMENT TO JESUS & HIS PLAN FOR MY LIFE**

II. WHY IMMERSE MYSELF IN A COMMITMENT TO JESUS?

1. IT'S WHAT I WAS _____

"¹⁵ But then something happened! For it pleased God in his kindness to choose me and call me, even before I was born! What undeserved mercy!" Galatians 1:15

"¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." Ephesians 2:10

2. IT'S WHAT'S _____

"²⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. ²⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?" Matthew 16:25-26

"⁸ The LORD says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you." Psalm 32:8

3. IT'S THE KEY TO MY _____

"⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths." Proverbs 3:6

"³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." Matthew 6:33

"¹⁰ The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." John 10:10

4. IT'S REQUIRED FOR MY _____

"⁹ If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved." Romans 10:9-10

“²⁴Then Jesus said to the disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me. ²⁵If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life.” Matthew 6:24-25

THERE IS NO BIBLICAL EVIDENCE THAT ANY COMMITMENT OTHER THAN

III. WHAT KEEPS ME FROM THIS TYPE OF COMMITMENT?

1. _____ TOWARDS GOD

“³ People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then are angry at the LORD.” Proverbs 19:3

2. _____ IN MY CULTURE

“¹⁹ But all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for nice things, so no crop is produced.” Mark 4:19

“¹⁵Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. ¹⁷And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.” 1 John 2:15-17

3. A DESIRE FOR _____

“⁵ God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.” Genesis 3:5

“⁸ The self-sufficient fool falls flat on his face.” Proverbs 10:8

4. THE LOVE OF _____

“¹²Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires...¹⁶Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.” Romans 6:12 & 16

5. _____

“¹⁶ For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.” James 3:16

6. _____ OF COMMITMENT

“⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” Proverbs 3:5-6

7. LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF _____, HIS _____, HIS _____, & HIS _____

“¹⁶ I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.” Ephesians 3:16-19

VI. HOW TO IMMERSE MY LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST

1. COMPARE THE _____

(Jesus) ^{“28} *But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first getting estimates and then checking to see if there is enough money to pay the bills?” Luke 14:28*

2. PREPARE MYSELF TO _____

^{“1} *And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice--the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask?* ² *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.” Romans 12:1-2*

BE CAREFUL NOT TO _____

^{“2} *People may be right in their own eyes, but the LORD examines their heart.” Proverbs 21:2*

3. COMMIT COMPLETELY TO GOD: MAKE JESUS _____

^{“9} *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* ¹⁰ *For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.” Romans 10:9-10*

4. GIVE UP EVERYTHING THAT WOULD KEEP ME FROM _____

^{“1} *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.* ² *We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus.” Hebrews 12:1-2*

^{“33} *So no one can become my disciple without giving up everything for me.” Luke 14:33*

5. BEGIN TO ACTIVELY DO _____

^{“3} *And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments.* ⁴ *If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth.* ⁵ *But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him.* ⁶ *Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.” 1 John 2:3-6*

6. IMMERSE MYSELF IN _____

^{“5} *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5*

7. KNOWING THAT GOD WILL _____, _____ FOR HIS INSTRUCTION

^{“27} *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” John 10:27*

KEY: ALWAYS _____, EVEN WHEN I'M NOT 100% SURE IT'S HIM

ASK: “DOES IT VIOLATE ANY _____?”

8. _____ KEEP MY COMMITMENT

^{“5} *Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you.” Psalm 37:5*

^{“13} *For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him.” Philippians 2:13*

KEY: WORK LIKE IT _____, BUT PUT YOUR _____
“ (Paul) ²⁹ That’s why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ’s mighty power that works within me.” Colossians 1:29