**EO3- Everyone on 3**

**Commitment Sunday, 1 Peter 4:7-11**

Sunday, February 27, 2022

**COMMITMENT CARDS Slide 1 Well, here we are COMMITMENT SUNDAY!** We’ve been praying and talking about this day for 3 weeks and it’s time to FOLLOW THROUGH with our commitments. **FTAs- bear with us as we don’t do this every week. We had a great night Wednesday with some of the financial leaders of our church.** We committed ourselves to lead by example in our EO3 giving. **We who were able to attend committed to give, O/A our regular giving, $180,570 over the next 3 years.** Now we’d like to give the rest of our church family the opportunity to do so. **Before we do let me give some direction on this.**

1. **Does everyone who wants a COMMITMENT CARD have one?** If not raise your hand/we’ll get you one.
2. Be sure your name, the amount you’re giving weekly/monthly, the KICK OFF amount you’re giving today, and the total are written clearly and then FOLD IT IN HALF.
3. I’m going to give us a moment of quiet for each of us to take time to pray a prayer of commitment and then I’ll pray.
4. After I pray there will be video at which time we’ll pass the buckets; please put your COMMITMENT card and your KICK OFF gift, if you have it, in the bucket.

**Let’s take a moment of quiet before we hand in our commitments to commit ourselves to the LORD first and thank Him for what He’s going to do in/through our church family.** Quiet prayer, HB prayer, video, pass buckets. **PLAY EO3 VIDEO as soon as HB finishes prayer and pass the offering buckets.**

**WE Slide 2 THANK YOU ALL FOR GIVING! When it comes to accomplishing our mission finances are important, but it can’t be done without people.** God has chosen to work in/through us to accomplish His mission so we want to hear what He has to say about what we must do to accomplish that mission. **TESTIMONIES:** Before we do I’d like to invite Deb Greenich/Trina Wolph to share with us how God has used the GP family to impact them spiritually. **THANK YOU LADIES! God working in/through ordinary people to bring spiritual growth/encouragement to others.** **Slide 3** This is what EVERYONE needs to do as we work together to CHALLENGE people to DISCOVER the truth, DECIDE on Jesus, DEMONSTRATE change, and DEPLOY to serve and share the gospel. **It’s not giving OR serving…IT’S BOTH**.

**Turn in your Bibles to 1 Peter 4 and as you let me give you some background. Slide 4**

1. Written to Christians who are being persecuted for their faith.
2. Explains how to respond to those who are persecuting them- government, bosses, spouses, others, etc.
3. 1 Peter 4 explains how we are to respond to our church family, even in the midst of persecution.

If people who are being persecuted are commanded to respond this way then we who have it easier should find it easier to obey this. **Let’s read what God has for us. Slide 5-10** It’s interesting to note that God doesn’t give persecuted Christians an EXCUSE to not do life His way and we don’t have one either. **He starts out by declaring “the end of all things is near”- as Christians if God is going to use us to draw people to Christ and help them grow in their faith then we need to live with urgency.**

**GOD**

1. **GOSPEL MOTIVATED SERVING , 1 Peter 4:7-11**
2. **Live with Urgency, 4:7a**
3. 1st cent Christians were MOTIVATED to share the gospel- they thought Jesus was coming back in their lifetime, their lives were being cut short, and their loved ones were dying/going to hell.
4. We’re to live each day as if Christ is coming back in our lifetime, as if it’s our last day because we’re not told when He’s returning.

**“Therefore”- Slide 11 for us to live with URGENCY and get the gospel out we need to THINK RIGHT. Slide 12** WE’LL BE TALKING MORE ABOUT THIS NEXT WEEK IN OUR NEXT SERIES “The Counselor”. **Slide 13**

1. **Think Right, 4:7b**
2. This is where Christians are MOST LIKE non-Christians- distracted, fearful, controlled by our emotions, holding onto this world and what we think it will give us.
3. Many 1st cent Christians had nothing! We have everything! But we’re depressed, anxious. **Why?** We’re self-focused, we think stuff/our way will make us happy, we’ve lost our purpose as Christians.
4. “sound judgment”- sophroneo; sozo + phren= saved mind; not to think/respond like those without Jesus, like we used to before coming the Christ, but like Jesus Himself thinks/responds.
5. “sober spirit”- nepho; not drunk; clear minded, well-balanced, not controlled by your emotions.
6. “for the purpose of prayer”- proseuche; right thinking produces effective prayers.
7. When thinking wrong/controlled by our emotions our prayers are typically frantic, self-focused.
8. We need to pray based on the truth of the Bible motivated by the seriousness of our mission.
9. Jesus prayed for God’s glory, His obedience, and the strength/protection of we His disciples.

**Slide 14 When we think/respond right, not controlled by our emotions, we will LOVE INTENSELY…**

1. **Love Intensely, 4:8**
2. “love”- agape; self-sacrificial, sacrificing what I want so the other has what they need.
3. “Above all”- #1 thing we need to do in response to others in our life.
4. “keep fervent”- ektenes; present tense- day in/day out intensity, unwavering, dedicated demonstration of sacrifice for others; medical term- stretching a muscle to its limit; maximum output.
5. “covers a multitude of sins”- kalupto; to hide, conceal, remove from sight; sacrificial love sets the other’s sin done to us aside so we can respond as the person needs from us. Jesus on the cross.
6. Life is hard, relationships are difficult, people hurt people, we want others to respond to us correctly before we respond to them correctly, Jesus responded first with sacrifice and so should we.

**We’re also to be HOSPITABLE/welcoming. Slide 15** This flows out of the command to fervently love.

1. **Welcome Others, 4:9**
2. “philoxenos”- philos/friendly + xenos/stranger, guest = friendly to guests.
3. “without complaint”- goggusmos; it’s a murmuring/muttering with an attitude of complaint.
4. 1st century Christians housed Christians traveling, including persecuted Christians from other areas.
5. God will bring people into your life, into our church, who we don’t know and it’s our Christ-given responsibility to welcome them, make them feel at home. **Might have to house Christians someday.**

**Another important demonstration of sacrificial love is to SERVE OBEDIENTLY. Slide 16**

1. **Serve Obediently, 1 Peter 4:10-11**
2. Every Christian has been given at least one special gift, 10a, 1 Corinthians 12:7
3. “gift”- charisma; special abilities given at salvation by God the Holy Spirit, 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 12:11; Ephesians 4:7
4. No one receives all the spiritual gifts- 1 Corinthians 12:27-30
5. It’s not a talent, skill- playing an instrument, singing, construction, art, etc. **SERVE CLASS**
6. It’s a supernatural empowering in a certain area of ministry to be used to help the church to grow spiritually and numerically.

**ALL Christians are to USE their special gift. Slide 17** It’s a COMMAND. **Bluntly- To not serve is to sin.**

1. Every Christian is to employ it in serving one another, 10b
2. “employ”- diakoneo; perform duties, render assistance, serve
3. It’s something God gives to be used to help grow the church, 1 Corinthians 12:7
4. “steward”- oikonomos; manager; it’s God’s given to you to do with as He commands.
5. “manifold”- poikilos; various kinds or modes, diversified; we are responsible to manage and properly use the many different kinds of gifts God’s Spirit gives Christians.
6. STATS- 55% of our church family is serving in some way. THANK YOU ALL THOSE WHO ARE OBEDIENT IN YOUR SERVING God’s family, our church family

**We are to serve not to draw attention to ourselves but to draw attention to God. Slide 18** That’s what GLORY means here.

1. Every Christian Is to Serve to Glorify God, v. 11b
2. “supplies”- choregeo; furnish, present tense- continuously supplies; God supplies the gift and the strength to serve. No excuse for not serving because God is the one who supplies what you need to serve.
3. “glory”- doxazo; “to influence one’s opinion about another so as to enhance the latter’s reputation”; show who God is, make His awesomeness know.
4. Too often we don’t serve because we feel inadequate but that’s not what God says.
5. When you serve despite your feeling of inadequacy God makes you adequate by empowering your spiritual gift which only shines a brighter light on how awesome God is.

**Slide 19 As we close I’d like to read off some names for you-** Ida Kennedy, Bud Prim, Larry Elwood, Bob Smith, Ms. Coate, Marvie Muzik, Andy Brown, Tom Burris, Don Reeder, Dave Brochek, Dave Fogel, Rich & Bonnie Wallich, Don & Lil Cassier, Jack MacDonald, Jim Gross, Jeff & Carol Kaznick, Del Hendrickson, June Zaruba, Don Herr, Tim Lohan, Ernie Vesta, Wayne Anderson, George Cheek. These are just a few of the people in my life who glorified God by serving and pouring into me spiritually. **Who in your past has glorified God by serving and pouring into you spiritually?**

**Slide 20 As the band comes up and we consider today’s TAKEAWAYS, let me ask you one more question, Whose list will you be on?** Who will remember you for glorifying God by serving and pouring into their life spiritually? **EVERY Christian has been gifted by the Holy Spirit to serve and EVERY Christian has been commanded by God to serve their church family. Where will you glorify God through serving and pouring into others spiritually?** That brings us to our TAKEAWAYS. **Slide 21**

**YOU TAKEAWAYS**

1. **SIGN UP for the SERVE Class- find out how God has uniquely designed you to serve His church family.** Go to your Church Center app or ohiograce.com/events, Northwood and sign up today.

**You all received a Ministry Opportunities Sheet showing all the different areas of ministry available in our church family.** There is literally something for EVERYONE to do. **Big Needs- GraceKids team, Tech/Audio team, Photography/Videography, and demolition/remodeling.**

1. **MARK on your Connect Card where you’ll COMMIT to serve and we’ll make sure to get with you about the details of that ministry.** Drop it in the offering bucket on your way out.

**WE’VE GOT AN EXCITING 3 YEARS AHEAD OF US AND WE’LL SEE HOW GOD USES EVERYONE OF US TO ACCOMPLISH HIS MISSION.** Let’s stand and sing this last song as our desire and commitment.

**PODCAST:** Gospel Motivated Living, 1 Peter 4:7-11, John 9:4