



HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

HOAW Newsletter

Our perceptual attitudes about life – our worldview, is established, informed, and conditioned by the beliefs we hold and the values we embrace.

Greg Bourgond

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Commitment

by Dr. Greg Bourgond

In GotQuestions.org the author addresses what is meant by **commitment**. We would do well to heed his words.

There are numerous references in the Bible addressing the Christian's commitment in various aspects of life: to our families, neighbors, employers, the church, our health, and in all things, we do and say (Ephesians 6:5; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 31). But the Bible also teaches that the chief commitment of our lives is to God Himself. Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment" (Matthew 22:37-38).

Jesus is telling us that every fiber of our being, every facet of our lives must be committed to loving and serving God. This means that we must hold nothing back from Him

because God holds nothing back from us (John 3:16). Furthermore, Jesus tells us that our commitment to Him must supersede our commitment to even our families: "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26-27). Such commitment means our family relationships may be severed. It means our commitment to Christ demands, if given an "either/or" situation, we turn away from them and continue on with Jesus (Luke 12:51-53). The bottom line is that those who cannot make that kind of commitment cannot be His disciple.

Jesus is warning us in advance. The reason for such commitment and loyalty is that the trials we may have to endure will be quite demanding;

our allegiance to Him at times may be arduous (John 15:18). Jesus alerted His disciples: "Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you" (John 15:20). The apostle Paul echoed His warning: "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (2 Timothy 3:12).

Jesus has made it plain the cost of discipleship: "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it" (Luke 9:23-24).

In essence, the true cost of commitment to Christ is one's total self-denial, cross-bearing, and the continual following of Him. These imperatives picture for us sacrifice, selflessness, and service. A cross epitomized ultimate punishment and humiliation (Galatians 3:13). More than that, it fully demonstrated the love of God (Romans 5:8)—selfless

and sacrificial in the giving of His life for the world (Matthew 20:28).

Paul followed the Lord's example of commitment in sacrifice and service. Paul said, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Total commitment to God means that Jesus is our sole authority, our guiding light, and our unerring compass. Being committed to Christ means being fruitful; it means being a servant. Our axiom is simple and succinct: "For me to live is Christ" (Philippians 1:21).

Some time ago, I came across the following testimony. If only each of us could say the same.

I'm a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have Holy Spirit power. The dye has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of His. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I'm finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by

patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way rough, my companions few, my Guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, preached up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He will have no problems recognizing me – my banner will be clear!

Written by a young African pastor and tacked on the wall of his home

A standard we should all strive for!

OPERATIONAL BELIEFS FOR MEN

I have a destiny to fulfill (Jer 29:11).

I have a contribution to make (1 Cor 12:4-7).

I have a ministry to complete (Eph 4:11-16).

I have a legacy to leave (2 Tim 2:2; 1 Chron 28:8).

I am to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matt 22:39).

I am to keep God's commandments (Eccl 12:13; Matt 5:17-19; 1 Jn 5:2-3).

OTHER NEWS



Heart of a Warrior Ministries offers four journeys you can take to become who God created you

to be.

Foundations of a Warrior (Ground Zero) helps establish strong biblical foundations for the battles ahead.

The Compass (Phase I) calibrates a warrior's heart and tunes that heart to the heart of God.

The Map (Phase II) helps men focus on what matters in accordance with their unique divine wiring.

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Go to our website for more details.
www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/

If you would like to contact me directly, email me at HOAWMinistries.com.



Donations

Please consider giving to Heart of a Warrior Ministries. HOAW Ministries needs your financial support. Our ability to help men live God-honoring lives depends on the resources we can use to that end. Simply go to the donations tab on heartofawarrior.org. Thank you for being a subscriber.

Check out **The Store** on our website (www.heartofawarrior.org). There are downloadable resources you can use to lead a group through Phases I, II, or III, Foundations of a Warrior, and Bible Study Guidelines.

Websites for Men

NEW: Legacy Minded Men

www.legacymindedmen.org

Heart of a Warrior Ministries

www.Heartofawarrior.org

Church for Men

<http://churchformen.com/>

Resolute

<https://beresolute.org/>

Life Way Men

<https://blog.lifeway.com/leadingmen/>

Men's Fraternity

<http://www.mensfraternity.com/>

Man in the Mirror

<http://maninthemirror.org/>

Men with No Regrets

<http://www.menwithnoregrets.org/>

National Collision of Men's Ministries

<http://ncmm.org/>

Every Man's Battle

<https://newlife.com/emb/>

Iron Sharpens Iron

<http://ironsharpensiron.net/>

Ransomed Heart Ministries

<http://www.ransomedheart.com/>

Band of Brothers

www.bandofbrothers.org/

Man Up God's Way

<http://www.manupgodsway.org/>

Iron Works

<http://www.ironworksmen.com/>