

I John 4:7-21

The Commitment of the Covenant

Introduction:

It is interesting when you look up the word commitment in the English dictionary. It states: “The act of committing, pledging or engaging oneself.” The synonyms identify commitment with words such as, obligation, promise, responsibility, vow and duty.” If you belong to any club in society there are dues to pay and responsibilities along with your privileges. If you belong to an association there are common causes united to sustain the organization. All organizations involve commitment, responsibilities along with privileges.

The church is no different except the head of the organization is not a fallible man but the impeccable Lord Jesus Christ who promises to build His church and all of hell’s evils cannot and will not prevail against it. The church commitment is to make disciples and teach the Word of God that is filled with salvation by grace. (Matt. 28:19, 20)

- I. **A Bond of Fellowship**
 - A. **Accountability – Matt. 11:30; I John 4:10**
 1. Heart commitment – Love for the Triune God
 2. Matthew Henry puts it...
 - B. **Fellowship with God’s people**
 1. Modern evangelicalism no thought of corporate fellowship
 2. Isolated Christians – Gordon Keddie ... Rom. 12:4,5
- II. **Shared Relationship**
 - A. **Individualism and Subjectivism**
 1. “My faith is private” Acts 2:42
 2. “Some people are never happy with any church” (Gordon Keddie)
 3. Zealous for ministry but not for the visible church
 - B. **Plural usage:**
 1. God’s people are always described in the plural - Matt. 1:21
 2. Jesus saves the whole people of God – Eph. 5:25; I Pet. 2:9,10
- III. **Covenant Community**
 - A. **No such creature as a “secret Christian”**
 1. No individualism when it comes to worship – Gal. 3:28
 2. One Body – I Cor. 12:13; Rom. 12:5
 3. One House - I Pet. 2:5; Heb. 13:17
 4. Burdens to bear – Gal. 6:2
 - B. **An assembly enrolled in heaven – Heb. 12:23**
 - C. **An assembly enrolled on earth – Matt. 18:18**
 - D. **Covenant Living:**
 1. Personal holiness – Lev, I Pet. 2:9; Matt. 5:16, 48
 2. A common bond of grace – I John 4:19
 3. A common pattern for living – God’s moral Law – Rom. 7:12

Conclusion:

1. *How are you living your life in relation to God and your brother and sister in Christ?*
2. *What quality of life within the Covenant community do you enjoy and work in your church life?*
3. *Since God first loved us and now we love Him, Is that the same love being expressed to those within the church? I John 4:20*

