

## Introduction

1. Commitment is defined as “an agreement or pledge to do something in the future” or “the state or an instance of being obligated or emotionally impelled” (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary).
  - a. Often this term is used to describe relationships including marriage.
  - b. Vows are exchanged in the marriage ceremony pledging love, support, care, and priority to the other person.
2. Christianity demands commitment because it is a relationship between the church (composed of individual members - [1 Cor. 12:12-14](#)) and Christ.
  - a. Christ is the husband and the church is His bride ([2 Cor. 11:2](#); [Rm. 7:4](#); cf. [Eph. 5:22-32](#); [Rev. 19:7-9](#)).
3. The quality of commitment to any cause can be measured by three basic standards: duration, intensity, and priority.
  - a. **Duration** refers to how long a person is willing to give unreserved love and support to another.
  - b. **Intensity** refers to the strength of feeling and depth of concern for the partner.
  - c. **Priority** describes the extent to which the relationship takes precedence over other matters.

## I. Committed to Christ: Duration

1. God loved us first ([1 Jn. 4:9-10](#), [19](#)).
  - a. Sending the Christ was in God’s mind from eternity ([Eph. 3:9-11](#)).
2. Christ loved and loves the church ([Eph. 5:25-32](#)).
  - a. Marriage to Christ takes place at baptism ([Ac. 2:41](#), [47](#)).
  - b. We show our love to Christ by obeying Him ([Jn. 14:15](#), [21](#), [23-24](#)).
3. Christ demands faithfulness for the remainder of our lives ([Rev. 2:10](#)).
  - a. Like in marriage, it is possible to become unfaithful ([2 Cor. 11:1-4](#)).

## II. Committed to Christ: Intensity

1. Our strength of feeling and depth of concern for Christ is determined by how much of our heart He has.
  - a. He desires it all ([Mk. 12:29-34](#)).

- b. If Christ has all of our hearts we will not make excuses when it comes to serving Him.
  - c. Consider Epaphroditus ([Php. 2:25-30](#)).
- 2. It is possible to lose intensity.
  - a. The Ephesians did ([Rev. 2:4-5](#)).
  - b. The Laodiceans did ([Rev. 3:14-16](#)).

### **III. Committed to Christ: Priority**

- 1. Christ is preeminent ([Col. 1:18](#)).
  - a. This means He is above all.
  - b. He has superiority and thus highest priority.
- 2. Christ must come before all others including self and all things ([Lk. 14:25-33](#); cf. [Lk. 9:57-62](#)).
  - a. “hate not” ([Lk. 14:26](#)) means to love less ([Mt. 10:37](#)).
  - b. To put anyone or anything ahead of Christ is to not be worthy of Him ([Mt. 10:37-39](#)).
  - c. We seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness ([Mt. 6:33](#)).

### **Conclusion**

- 1. To be committed to Christ requires a lifelong relationship just like marriage.
- 2. To be committed to Christ requires us to give Christ our whole heart.
- 3. To be committed to Christ means that He will take priority over all others and all things.
- 4. Be committed to Christ today!