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"Commitment"

Commitment - God's unbreakable commitment to us becomes the foundation for healthy, resilient relationships with one another.

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV) They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- **Devoted** - pressing into what is priority, to persevere, be constantly diligent.

The early disciples' devotion was to God, through the Apostles' teaching. They learned to stay and work through challenges, to grow together in a spiritual community.

Devotion to God 1st

John 15:5 (NIV) "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."

- Remaining in Christ requires commitment and perseverance that yields fruit.

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- The logical response to what Christ has done for us is to commit to remaining in Christ with our whole being.

Abiding in Christ is the pathway to a healthy relationship with Him and others. Matthew 22:37-40, Phil. 2:13

Devotion to living out God's plan

Fellowship - Koinónia - sharing a common life, contribution, participation, partnership in the gospel.

Being devoted to "fellowship" means being committed to Christian community, living gospel centered lives together, loving, supporting, and encouraging one another as the family of God.

- They didn't start with deep relationship, but relationship was developed through the commitment of their shared partnership.

Hebrews 3:12-13 (NIV) See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

- Staying connected is essential for healthy relationships. Genesis 2:18, Proverbs 27:17

They demonstrated their growing love for each other by meeting each other's needs.

- Their generosity flowed from the love and joy they grew in together. They gave sacrificially. 2 Corinthians 8:2-3

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

- Abiding in Christ produced the fruit of the Spirit, the Spirit empowered them to love each other. Galatians 5:22-23

Colossians 3:13-14 (NIV) Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

- Love learned in the church spilled out to other relationships. John 13:34-35
- God used these relationships to grow the church. 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

Devotion to relationships

- Commitment to good communication is essential.

James 1:19 (NIV) My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,

Proverbs 12:18 (NIV) The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

- Commitment to trusting God helps in trusting each other.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

- Commitment to boundaries for the sake of loving others.

Titus 3:9-11 (ESV) "But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. 10 As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned."

- Good boundaries are not meant to be walls that keep people out, but more like filters that allow what is healthy to be let in. (Week 4 of the series, Titus Leger)

- Commitment to conflict resolution keeps us unified.

John 17:20-21 (NIV) "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

The best way for the world to be drawn to Christ is to witness first hand the authentic love and commitment we have for one another, even when there is conflict. Romans 12:18

- Commitment is necessary for healthy, mature relationships - this is God's heart for His people.

Small Group Discussion Questions: Story Acts 2: 36-47

- What did Peter instruct the crowd to do? Why?
- What is our response to be for the salvation given to us? Romans 12:1-2, Acts 2:42-47
- How are you living out your commitment to the great commandment? Matthew 22:37-40
- The entire Biblical narrative is about relationships with God and each other. How does your life align with this?

