

## “Commitment” Between You and Me

Godly relationships are characterized by steadfast commitment that bears with, believes, hopes and endures. This is a reflection of God's unbreakable love for us.

### Levels of Relationship

- **Convenience**
  - Individually beneficial relationship
  - **Proverbs 18:24 ESV** “A man of *many companions* may come to ruin...”
- **Contract**
  - Mutually beneficially relationship
  - **Proverbs 20:6** “Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man who can find?”
- **Commitment**
  - Loyal, growing, sacrificial relationship
  - **Proverbs 17:17 ESV** “A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.”
  - **Proverbs 27:17 ESV** “Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another”
  - **John 15:13 ESV** “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

### Recipe for Relationships that “Awe” the World

The very first church was experiencing massive growth internally and externally, but their behaviors were extraordinarily basic and routine. And, the outcome was “awe.”

### Acts 2:41-43 NASB

“So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.”

1. **Time** - “continually devoting themselves”
  - a. Did not happen instantly, but steadily
  - b. Commitment to each other
  - c. Took individual ownership
2. **Purposeful Growth** - “to the apostles teachings”
  - a. The gatherings had substance
  - b. Truth that was centering to their relationships
3. **Relationship** - “and to fellowship”
  - a. *Koinonia*: participation, partnership, shared life
  - b. Mutual responsibility and spiritual investment

- c. Sharing of burdens
- d. Sharing of mission
- 4. **Foundation** - *"...to the breaking of bread and prayer."*
  - a. Came back every time they gathered to their shared salvation, faith and hope
  - b. When dispute would arise, they were reminded of the great grace given
- 5. **Awe-Inspiring** - *"Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe"*
  - a. Generosity beyond what made normal
  - b. Joy when it didn't make sense
  - c. Favor with outsiders - people wanted in

**Philippians 1:6 NLT** *"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."*

### **What destroys commitment in relationships? Enemies Attacks and Tactics**

- Change in Habits
  - Slow fade in time
  - Time spent without intention
  - Loss of godly fruit in relationship
  - Shifted foundation - values or beliefs change
- Dark Lies:
  - *"They just aren't the same as they use to be."*
  - *"There is something (or someone) out there much better for me"*
  - *"I just need a change, God would want me to be happy."*

### **When to Walk Away?** (Summarized thoughts of Gary Thomas' book of the same name)

1. There is ongoing emotional, spiritual or physical harm
2. There is no repentance or willingness to change
3. Your presence enables unhealthy behavior
4. *Staying* compromises your integrity or faith

*When in doubt, process with a trusted spiritually mature friend or counselor*

### **Our True Foundation**

- 1 John 4:16-19 ESV
- 1 Corinthians 13:7-8 ESV