

1 Timothy 1 - Why We Commit

August 6, 2015

1 Timothy 1:1-5

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;

2 Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

3 As I besought thee to **ABIDE STILL AT EPHESUS**, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest **CHARGE SOME THAT THEY TEACH NO OTHER DOCTRINE**,

4 Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

5 Now **THE END OF THE COMMANDMENT IS CHARITY OUT OF A PURE HEART, AND OF A GOOD CONSCIENCE, AND OF FAITH UNFEIGNED:**

COMMITMENT - "ABIDE STILL"

(exercise patience, long-suffering, forgiveness and endurance - don't run from disagreement, conflict or opposition - ministry is messy)

- **CONSUMER CHRISTIANITY** *(people demand a message that is non-offensive, self-justifying, self-gratifying, self-indulgent, self-help psychology, convenient, etc.)*
- **FEAR OF VULNERABILITY** *- past wounds and unforgiveness have erected high walls of self-defense and self-preservation*
- **RESTLESS, OPPORTUNISTIC, CORPORATE-MINDED, "SUCCESS" DRIVEN PASTORS AND LEADERS** *(little to no commitment to the people or relationships, more committed to their "career", position and publicity, average pastorate is 3.5 years)*
- **WORLDLY CRITERIA OF STRATEGY AND RESULTS** *(driven primarily by media, metrics and measurable results)*

We commit because of God's divine placement and gifting. This is where He has placed me and this is what He has gifted me to do to serve the Body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:15-22

15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

18 **But now hath God set (put, place) the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.**

19 And if they were all one member, where were the body?

20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.

21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

- *I am not where I am in the Body of Christ by my own choice, but by God's sovereign placement. There is a plan and purpose far beyond my own ability and understanding.*
- *As a hand or foot cannot live severed from the body, neither can the Christian live without being knit into the Body of Christ, receiving life and nourishment from the rest of the members.*
- *Every member has a God-ordained purpose, function and gift to bring life and nourishment to the rest of the Body. No matter how perceptually large or small, important or trivial, each role is vital.*
- *Until I am fulfilling what I am called and gifted to do, I will always be frustrated, unfulfilled, non-productive and without purpose as a Christian.*

We commit because of the vital exchange of life from member to member. I need to be a member that brings life just as much as I need to receive life from other members (many times our deliverance and healing comes in giving instead of receiving). This natural life and world will always try to obscure and hide the spiritual Kingdom we belong to.

Ephesians 4:15–16

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16 **From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.**

- *Without proper relationship to the other members of the Body of Christ, there are dimensions of the life and power of God that are void in my life. Much like breathing and drinking but not eating, we can pray and study the Bible but without fellowship in the Body of Christ we are dying. A hand or foot separated from the body cannot survive.*

We commit to an invisible, timeless, living organism, the very Body of Christ. Our lives are governed and empowered by a spiritual Kingdom, having no natural origin nor boundaries.

Hebrews 12:1–2

1 Wherefore seeing we also are **compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses**, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 **Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 6:4–6

4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Colossians 3:10–11

10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

11 **Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.**

- *Meeting as a church community is not a social club, not a therapy session, not a hobby. Meeting as a church community is connecting to the universal Church at-large, the invisible Kingdom of God.*

Ephesians 2:19-22

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 **In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:**

22 **In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.**

We commit because we have a heritage to continue and a legacy to leave behind. We commit because of the immeasurable worth of the mission, started by saints who have gone before, now placed in our hands to continue and entrust to coming generations. It is an eternal mission, surpassing any and all presumed importance in this life. The mission is worth our very lives. What faith, what example are we leaving for those to follow?

2 Corinthians 12:15

"And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved."

Colossians 1:23–25

23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

24 **Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:**

25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

John 10:11-13

11 I am the good shepherd: **the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.**

12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, **seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth:** and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and **careth not for the sheep.**

Ephesians 4:1-3

1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that **ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,**

2 **With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;**

3 **Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**