

# A DEEPER COMMITMENT

## Pastor O - 2021 Leaders' Retreat

***“One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”***  
**Matthew 22:35-40**

Commitment is the act of committing, pledging, or engaging oneself to an issue, a cause or position of service. Deeper means: to considerable depth, extending beyond normal or greater intensity.

### I. Leadership Demands the ALL

The demand on leaders begins with loving God with ALL or your whole being.

- Your heart – the center of your emotions
- Your soul – the essence of your spiritual being
- Your mind – the intellect

God must have unquestioned priority in a leader's life. Love for God should be so deep that a leader constantly seeks the will of God responding to His love in every situation that is faced. The depth of one's love is reflected in commitment.

Generally, people will not follow a leader who does not exemplify the ALL of commitment.

### II. Dissecting Deeper Commitment

One must ask: How is deeper developed?

- **Devotion to Commitment**

***“Still another said, ‘I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family.’ Jesus replied, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” Luke 10:61-62 NIV***

Commitment necessitates a denial of something or someone. Service in the kingdom requires total devotion and one's absolute attention. Not even family comes before God.

- **Devoutness of Commitment**

***“Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.’ Matthew 16:24 NIV***

To be devout means to be deeply dedicated to Jesus Christ. Deep requires saying no to oneself. Deep requires giving up one's hopes, dreams, possessions, and one's very life if necessary.

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- **Discipline of Commitment**

***“So, I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.”***

***1 Corinthians 9:26-27 ESV***

Paul uses an athletic metaphor to emphasize commitment. Successful running or commitment does not just happen. Strict training is required for success. Without is the result is disqualification.

- **Degree of Commitment**

***“For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I’m not even worthy to be called and apostle after the way I persecuted God’s church.***

***But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace. So, it makes no difference whether I preach, or they preach, for we all preach the same message you have already believed.” 1 Corinthians 15:9-11 NLT***

Ultimately a leader will be judged by the extent of his or her commitment. Paul saw himself as “least” or insignificant, but he extended himself and “worked harder” than the other apostles.

- **Demonstrating Commitment at First Met**

- Belonging – Acting like an owner and witnessing for Christ
- Connecting – Healthy, godly relationships in groups and ministry
- Growing – Maturing through Bible Study, Prayer, Worship, Retreats, Conferences, etc.
- Serving – Using Spiritual Gifts, passion, experiences, and skills to serve others in love
- Giving – Tithes, Offerings, Sacrificial Gifts = generosity
- Leading – Initiating, Problem Solving, Servant’s Heart
- Marriage & Family – Faithful to spouse and children
- Engaging – Touching the lives of members
- Pastoral Leadership – Honoring and cooperating with your pastors

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### III. The Why of Deeper Commitment

God has been gracious to us at First Met. We are privileged to be servants in His kingdom. Plus, He desires to do so much more for our church. Why?

1. Discipleship

The fact is ALL is the minimum requirement for becoming a disciple.

***"Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be My disciple." Luke 14:33***

2. The deep is where we see God at work.

***"They saw the LORD's works, His wondrous works in the deep."***

***Psalm 107:24 NIV***

3. The deep is where Jesus calls us:

***"When he had stopped speaking, He said Simon, 'Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.'" Luke 5:4 NIV***

4. The deep is the spiritual dimension.

***"But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God." 1 Corinthians 2:10 NKJV***

Discussion: What would be the consequences of having a leader without a deep commitment to God? What do you see as the biggest obstacle to you going deeper?

There are many benefits to leaders having a deeper commitment:

- Passion and vision readily become a reality
- Expectations of others are raised
- You become contagious causing others to make commitments
- Unity is experienced
- Disciples are made for God
- God is glorified!

Jesus' makes a deep demand of ALL which requires a deeper commitment. What degree of commitment or you willing to make for 2022?

\_\_\_\_\_ Shallow

\_\_\_\_\_ Deep

\_\_\_\_\_ Deeper