

COMMITTED **Galatians 5:13**

**Today we'll consider some of what the New Testament teaches
about committed, local church Christianity.**

I. OUR DUTY: Through love serve one another

A. SERVE SELFLESSLY - Galatians 5:3

1. Act lovingly: Seeking the best interest of others
2. Anticipate involvement
 - a. Ask: "What can I do or how can I help?"
 - b. Follow the example of the household of Stephanas in I Cor. 16:15-16
3. Avoid consumerism
 - a. Not, what can this church offer or do for my family?
 - b. But rather, what can we offer or how can my family serve in this church.

B. SHARE WILLINGLY - I Peter 4:10-11

1. Use your spiritual gift to serve others (10a)
2. Be a good steward of God's grace (10b)
3. Use what God has given you to glorify Him (11)

C. WORK PROPERLY - Ephesians 4:16

1. The Goal: Every joint supplying something
2. The Growth: Contributing to the growth of the body

D. LABOR UNITEDLY - I Corinthians 3:5-9

1. Partnering with God and each other to build His church
2. God causes the growth (6b) but rewards each who labors (8b)

II. OUR DANGER: Turning our freedom into an opportunity for the flesh

A. DESERTION - II Timothy 4:10

1. Demas' Situation
 - a. The reality: Demas forsook Paul
 - b. The reason: Demas loved the present world
2. Our Selfishness
 - a. The allure of the world
 - b. An addiction to the world
 - The more freedom you assert, the more enslaved you become
 - c. An affinity for self-indulgence
 - An undisciplined desire for temporal pleasures

B. APATHY - Revelation 2:1-7

1. Ephesus' Conditions
 - a. They had discernment (2, 6)
 - b. They had determination (3)
 - c. But they lacked devotion (4)
 - Having left their first love
2. A Concern
 - a. Maintaining a right doctrine but losing our passion for Christ
 - b. Routine but not revival

III. **OUR DILEMMA**: Wrongly responding to the uncommitted

- A. BECOMING BUMMED - I Kings 19:10, 14
 - Discouraged by the un-commitment of others
- B. BECOMING BITTER - Hebrews 12:15
 - Discouragement turning to disillusionment and a critical spirit
- C. BECOMING BUSY-BODIES - James 4:11
 - Speaking evil of one another

IV. **SOME DIRECTIVES**: Right responses from the committed

- A. PRAY FOR WORKERS - Matthew 9:36-38
- B. DO WHAT YOU CAN - Mark 14:8
- C. REFUSE COMPARISONS - II Corinthians 10:12
- D. ENCOURAGE OTHERS - Hebrews 10:24 (see also Heb. 3:13)

CONCLUSION:

No matter what others may do, each of us should commit to serving God and this local church while excelling in a walk that pleases Him. - See I Thessalonians 4:1