



**COMMITMENT**

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**TO SERVICE**

# HONOURING COMMITMENTS

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IS A WAY OF LIFE



The state or quality of being dedicated to a cause, activity, etc.



An engagement or obligation that restricts freedom of action.



Commitment is a virtue; a behavior showing high standards in having integrity and honesty.

# BEFORE COMMITTING TO SERVICE, I MUST BE COMMITTED TO GOD

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- **Begin inwards:** Who is God to me and what do I know of Him?
- **Acknowledge your weakness:** no eternal value without the work of the Holy Spirit
- **Ascend with Him daily:** allotting time in my day for spiritual growth

Our church reminds us of our commitments to the faith:

- The Creed
- Baptism
- The confession before communion

“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

# THE ROAD TO HELL IS PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS

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- A generation of excuses:
  - I'm too busy now → what are your priorities? the church is growing, doubling every decade
  - I don't have the energy → no one does, God is the one who strengthens us and will reward us for giving the little we have
  - I don't like the people → Set aside feelings of offense when community doesn't look or feel like what you've imagined
  - I am not fit to serve → Service is for our salvation, first and foremost, it is designed that we may learn and grow from one another

"The safest road to hell is the gradual one – the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts."

# ROLEPLAY I – I'M TOO BUSY

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Karim is generally inconsistent in his attendance at youth group because he usually has other social gatherings on Friday nights. Karim has not taught a lesson in two months. Magdy approaches him and asks “Karim, can you please prepare the lesson two weeks from now?”. In two weeks he has his best friend’s Birthday Party scheduled.

What should Karim do?

- a) Accept the lesson and plan to leave immediately after to go to the birthday party late
- b) Excuse himself from giving a lesson as usual
- c) Switch his lesson for the coming week and prepare it last minute
- d) Notify Magdy and ask him to prepare the lesson for the third week
- e) Excuse himself from the birthday party and make it up to his friend another day

Also, what should Magdy do if Karim chooses anything other than option e?



# ROLEPLAY 2 – I DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY

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Karim has been showing up to youth group every two-three weeks. Magdy is concerned with his attendance and reaches out to him.

Karim responds: “Sorry Magdy, I just work so much during the week and then I see family on the weekend, and I’m usually just too tired to come on Fridays”

What should Karim do?

- a) Continue coming to service inconsistently
- b) Excuse himself from the service because he is not very committed
- c) Re-assess his schedule and priorities to see if he can improve his attendance and then decide if he should continue with the service

# ROLEPLAY 3 – I DON'T LIKE THE PEOPLE

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Karim is fed up with Magdy's style of teaching because Magdy is old fashioned. Magdy also criticized Karim's lesson last week because he used the word "Mass" instead of "Liturgy".

What should Karim do?


- a) Leave the service
- b) Discuss with Abouna about switching to another service
- c) Ignore Magdy's criticism and not show up whenever it's Magdy's turn to teach
- d) Ask Magdy about an explanation for the criticism and give him a few suggestions on how to use more modern tools in his teaching

# ROLEPLAY 4 – I'M NOT FIT TO SERVE

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Karim just graduated from university in another city and is finally returning back to Toronto. He has not been at St. Mark's consistently for a few years now and feels out of place. He also has not focused on his spiritual life during his university years. Mark approaches him to help out in the Sunday School service.

What should Karim do?

- a) Avoid Mark's calls so he doesn't have to answer this request
  - b) Evaluate his desire to serve with his spiritual father and determine which service is the most suitable to him, if any
  - c) Accept the request because he is embarrassed to say no and do the minimum required of him
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# ARE YOU A FAN

# OR FOLLOWER?

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## **A Fan of Christ**

- Serves from a distance
- Serves only when convenient
- Takes no initiative in his service

## **A Follower of Christ**

- Is not ashamed of his service
- Endures hardships in his service
- Serves at his highest capacity

**If serving has cost you nothing,  
Your service is in vain**

“For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know who I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”

# STRIKE THE SHEPHERD AND THE SHEEP WILL BE SCATTERED

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- As a servant, you choose to carry on the message of Christ – this is your commitment!
- To carry on this message, you must forego personal time – this is the cost!
- People and worldly distractions will discourage you – this is the hardship!
- Remind yourself that small choices = BIG IMPACTS
  - One servant leaves, the next one follows
  - One servant shows up late, the next week, others will also
- The antidote is to be selfless and humble in your service

“Something as small as the flutter of a butterfly’s wing can ultimately cause a typhoon halfway around the world”

“Son, when you apply yourself to the service of God, stand in justice and in fear, and prepare your soul for temptation.

Humble your heart, and persevere. Incline your ear, and accept words of understanding. And you should not hurry away in the time of distress.

Endure steadfastly for God. Join yourself to God, and persevere, so that your life may increase in the very end.

Accept everything that will happen to you, and persevere in your sorrow, and have patience in your humiliation.

For gold and silver are tested in fire, yet truly, acceptable men are tested in the furnace of humiliation.”

~Sirach 2: 1-5