



COMMUNITY Groups

April 30th, 2017: CONCRETE COMMITMENT

OPENING

- I wish before I started dated, someone told me _____.
- Do you tend to view commitment more like shackles or more like an anchor in the storm? Why?

DISCUSS & APPLY

Read Ephesians 5:25-32

- What are some ways Jesus showed his commitment and his love to the church? How does he continue to show it?
- What do you think it means for Christ's relationship with the church to be the same kind of relationship as a husband his with his wife? What does that say about Jesus? About us?
- How is what this passage teaches about marriage different from what our culture teaches? What are some practical ways that husbands can love their wives in the same way Jesus loves the church?
- How do verses 29 and 30 help us understand church membership? How might that be different from how we typically view "membership"?
- In what ways can commitment make us better people?
- Why is commitment an important aspect of being a part of a church? How has being committed help you and other grow?
- What are some ways you can show your commitment to Christ?
- Part of being committed to Jesus is by being committed to his church. How can you love the church in the same way Jesus did? What challenges do you face?

Read Matthew 11:28-30

- What exactly is the invitation in this passage? What are the implications of being more committed to something/someone else than to Jesus? How have you seen this in your own life?
- What do you think it means to take Jesus' yolk? What does this have to do with being committed to Jesus and his church?

FINAL APPLICATION

Jesus is saying in Mt 11:28-30 that being committed to him and doing his work is both personally refreshing/fulfilling and fruitful. Have you found a ministry that feels like that for you? If so, what's that like? If not, what is something new that you can try?



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PRAY

In same-gender groups of 3-4, discuss some of the things each person is more committed to than Christ. Then praise God that he is more worthy of our devotion than anything else, and ask for his grace to love him more. Also, take time to ask the Lord to make it clear what the next step in each person's spiritual journey should be. Is it an area of ministry? Is it a change in a relationship? As he makes it clear, ask for his grace in loving others and the church as Jesus did.