

## COMMITMENTS FOR THE COMING YEAR

### 2 Corinthians 7:1-4

#### I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. According to one source...the Top Ten List of New Year's Resolutions for 2012 are...  
#1. Spend more time with family/friends...#2. Become more fit...#3. Lose weight... #4. Quit smoking...#5. Enjoy life more...#6. Quit drinking...#7. Get out of debt...#8. Learn something new...#9. Help others more...#10. Get organized.
- b. Today I want to suggest to you some spiritual commitments for the New Year...I believe that if we keep these commitments the Lord will be honored...we will all grow in the Lord in 2012...and God will bless our church with a great year in 2012.

#### II. TO STAY CLEAN-

- a. I am not talking about physical cleanliness...though that is important...I am talking about staying spiritually clean.
- b. *2 Corinthians 7:1 (NIV) "Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God."*
- c. In 2 Corinthians 6... Paul admonished the Corinthian believers for compromising the Word of God ...and for allowing sin to corrupt their lives and ruin their testimony.
- d. Nothing will hinder a church from reaching its community for Christ more...than professing Christians living and acting like they have never been saved.
- e. Unsaved people do not expect Christians to be perfect...but they do expect believers to be consistently Christian in their words and behavior...when we fail to live consistent Christian lives...it hinders our witness to the lost.
- f. As we begin 2012 let us purify ourselves from anything that contaminates us physically and spiritually...any behavior or attitude that is sinful and displeasing to the Lord...that hinders our walk with Christ and our spiritual growth...and that undermines our testimony to the lost.
- g. How do we purify our lives?...#1. We confess our sins... *1 John 1:9 (NIV) "If we confess our sins, he (God) is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*
- h. How do we stay spiritually clean?...#2. We commit to living holy and godly lives... daily we need to commit ourselves to holiness and purity.

- i. Staying spiritually clean requires daily discipline and commitment... *1 Timothy 4:7 (NIV)* "...train yourself to be godly."
- j. Relying on the spiritual resources that God makes available to every believer ... prayer ... the Word of God... and the indwelling Holy Spirit... we must fight against the desires of the flesh...the sinful allurements of the world...and the temptations of Satan.
- k. To stay clean we must be on guard against sin...especially those sins which easily beset us ... if we have a friendship or a relationship that is dragging us away from the Lord...we need to give it up...if we are involved in something immoral that keeps dragging us away from the Lord and down into the dirt...we need to give it up.
- l. Seeking to live a clean life out of reverence and love for the God who has saved us...is a mark spiritual maturity.

### III. TO STAY CONNECTED-

- a. Two of Satan's major objectives in the life of every believer is to...#1, disconnect us from our fellowship with the Lord...#2, to disconnect us from our fellowship with His church.
- b. Nothing that Satan can do can cause a true believer in Christ to lose their salvation...but over the centuries Satan has been very successful in causing many truly saved people to lose their fellowship with the Lord.
- c. Believers who lose their fellowship with the Lord...lose their zeal and passion for spiritual things...become spiritually indifferent and lukewarm...lose their spiritual joy and power ...become mechanical in their worship and spiritual service...become spiritually ineffective and unproductive...fail to grow spiritually and they become disinterested in spiritual growth...and become more and more vulnerable to Satan's temptations.
- d. How does Satan cause believers to lose their fellowship with the Lord?...by causing us to become so entangled and so involved in the things of this world...(good or bad)... that we take our eyes off Jesus...and we begin to neglect and drift away from the spiritual disciplines ...that are so essential to our walk with the Lord and our fellowship with Him.
- e. Disciplines like daily prayer and personal worship...daily reading and meditating on God's Word...and regular fellowship and worship with God's people.
- f. Satan is also constantly trying to disconnect believers from the fellowship of the church ... as much as God loves the church...Satan hates the church...that is why he is constantly trying to tear churches apart...tear believers away from the church...and discredit the church before the world.

- g. It is God's will that every believer be active and involved in the life of the local church ... *Hebrews 10:25 (NIV) "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*
- h. Being active and involved in a local church is absolutely essential...to a growing and productive Christian life.
- i. Let us commit today to stay clean...and to stay connected with the Lord...and with His church in 2012.

#### **IV. TO STAY CHRISTLIKE-**

- a. The Corinthians were not very Christlike...not very loving...and not very kind in their relationship with Paul...and with each other.
- b. Do you know what you are saying when you call yourself a Christian?...you are saying that you have believed in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior...that you are a follower and a disciple of Jesus Christ...and you are saying that you have committed to being Christlike in your behavior...in your language...in your lifestyle...and in how you treat others.
- c. When we are dishonest...unloving...unkind...unforgiving...when we condemn and attack others unnecessarily and without grace...then we are not being Christlike and Christian in how we treat others.
- d. Let us commit that in 2012...we will act like someone who has been saved and indwelt by God...and we will treat others as our Lord would have us to.
- e. Remember the truth of these verses...*Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV) "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."*
- f. If we have not tried to make things right with those we have offended...if we have not forgiven those who have offended us...then we are not right with God.

#### **V. CONCLUSION-**

- a. COMMIT TO STAY CLEAN...COMMIT TO STAY CONNECTED...COMMIT TO STAY CHRISTLIKE in 2012.
- b. Time of decision and recommitment.