

DEVOTED

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Commitment Phobia

Three Reasons We Resist Committing to the Church

1. The Church is Not What We Want it to Be

At a deep level I sense the church contains something I desperately need. Whenever I abandon the church for a time, I find that I am the one who suffers. My faith fades, and the crusty shell of lovelessness grows over me again. I grow colder, not hotter.

Phillip Yancey

*This is a big old ship, Bill. She creaks, she rocks, she rolls, and at times she makes you want to throw up. But she gets where she is going. She always has, always will, until the end of time, with or without you. J.F. Powers, *Wheat that Springeth Green**

Antidote to Consumerism:

*Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
² He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴ He will not grow faint or be discouraged^[a]
till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.*

Isaiah 42:1-4

2. We Have Forgotten the Task of the Church

Antidote to a top-heavy church:

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
Matthew 28:19-20

3. We Never Commit

Antidote to drift:

“Follow me.” Matthew 4:19 and others

Resources

Church: Why Bother? by Philipp Yancey

As Kingfishers Catch Fire by Eugene Peterson

A Praying Life by Paul Miller