

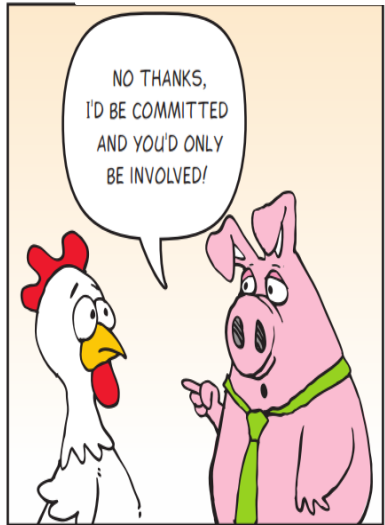
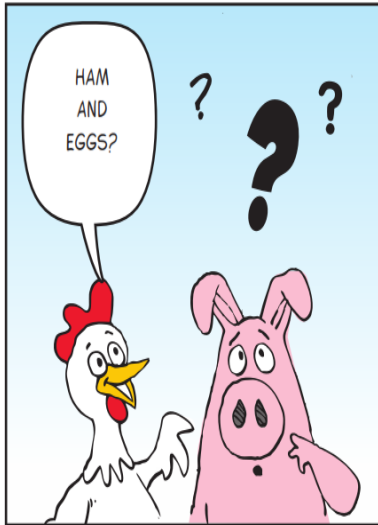
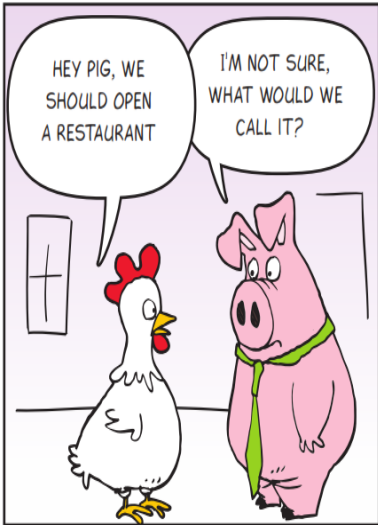


i Are you a chicken or a
pig?

BUILDING A KINGDOM CULTURE:

**A PEOPLE WHO
ARE
COMMITTED**

PIG & CHICKEN PART 1





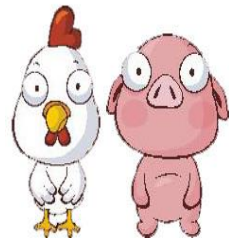
COMMITTED TO DOING WHAT?

LOVE GOD
LOVE PEOPLE



BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

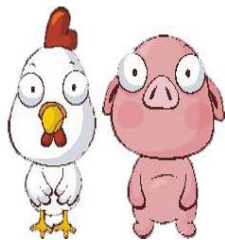
- What is commitment?
- To what or to whom should we commit ourselves?
- How do we do it?



WHAT IS COMMITMENT?

“To commit”, according to the Cambridge dictionary is:

1. To do something illegal or that is considered wrong
2. To send someone officially to prison or a hospital
3. To promise or give your loyalty, time, or money to a particular principle, person, or plan of action

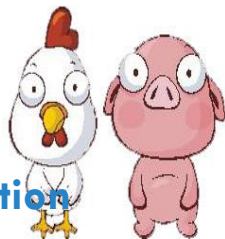


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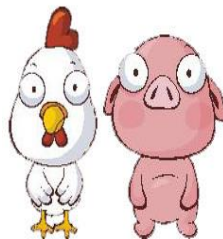
The act of binding yourself to a course of action



WHAT IS COMMITMENT?

What does commitment mean to you? To me, it means sticking with it. It means not giving up even if it gets tough. It means doing that thing regardless of the reasons that tell you not to.

Melanie Kathryn

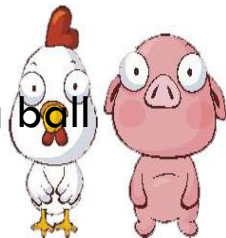


WHAT COMMITMENT IS NOT

- A two-way bargain between two parties

*“If you keep your end of the bargain
then I’ll keep mine”*

- So if you are committed to the decision, you will remain committed even if that no longer suits you
- Even if it becomes hard or painful
- Even if the other party is no longer playing ball

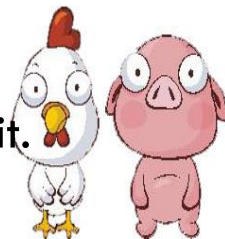


AN EXAMPLE, COURTESY OF BRO. FRANKLYN

Imagine that Brian puts a million pounds in the bank for Lydia. If he is committed to it, it means that he doesn't put conditions on her behaviour before she is allowed to take it out, he doesn't tell her she can only spend it on certain things, he doesn't say it will only be there for a certain time.

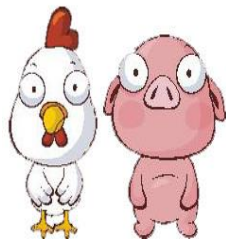
It's a one-way deal

But she has to go to the bank to withdraw it.



HOW DOES GOD COMMIT TO US?

- God made His commitment to us through a new covenant



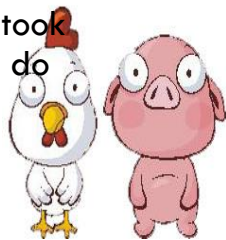
HEBREWS 8.8 (FROM JEREMIAH 31.31)

Hebrews 8⁸ ... “The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.⁹ It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord.¹⁰ This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.¹¹ No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.¹² For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

HOW DOES GOD COMMIT TO US?

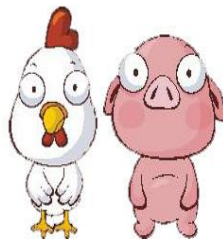
“I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more” ...

1 Corinthians 11 ²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”



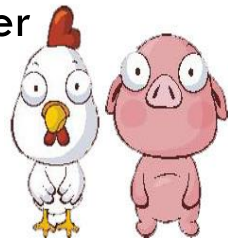
HOW DOES GOD COMMIT TO US?

- God's new covenant is one of salvation!
- For the forgiveness of sins.
- The once-and-for-all sacrifice of his only son, Jesus Christ
- It is available to us whenever we choose to receive it
- We don't have to 'be good' to receive it
- We choose what we do with it
- God will never snatch it away



HOW DOES GOD COMMIT TO US?

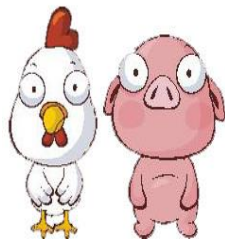
- God's commitment to us models how He would like us to commit to Him ... and to other people
- Love God : Love People
- John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.



TO WHAT OR WHOM? LOVE GOD

³⁷ Jesus replied, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. (Matthew 22:37-38).

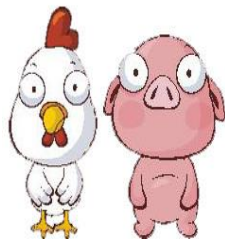
“If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it” (Luke 9:23-24).



TO WHAT OR WHOM? LOVE GOD

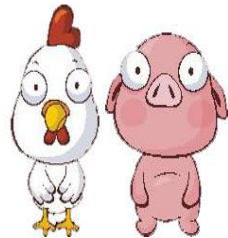
“Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26-27)

- Following Jesus requires us to commit
- Not as part of a “bargain” – but freely given



TO WHAT OR WHOM? LOVE PEOPLE

³⁷ Jesus replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-38).



TO WHAT OR WHOM? LOVE PEOPLE



Priest?
Levite?
Samaritan?

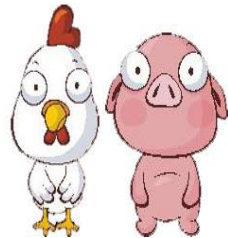
36 “Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

37 The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

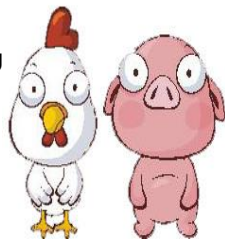
TO WHAT OR WHOM? LOVE PEOPLE

- To our husband or wife
- To our family
- To our church family
- To the people we meet in our lives (the man on the road)



HOW DO WE DO IT?

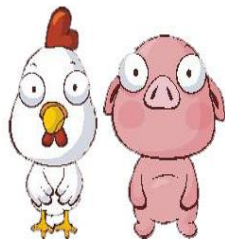
- Be sincere (let your 'yes' be 'yes', and your 'no' be 'no')
- Be clear what it is you are committing to (like the pig!)
- Hold yourself (and no one else) accountable to you remaining committed
- Don't be afraid to allow the way in which you committed to change as circumstances change



EVEN IF IT GETS HARD

Habakkuk 3

¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen
and no cattle in the stalls,
¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will be joyful in God my Saviour.

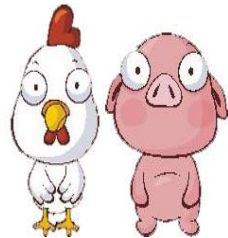


AND DO NOT COUNT THE COST

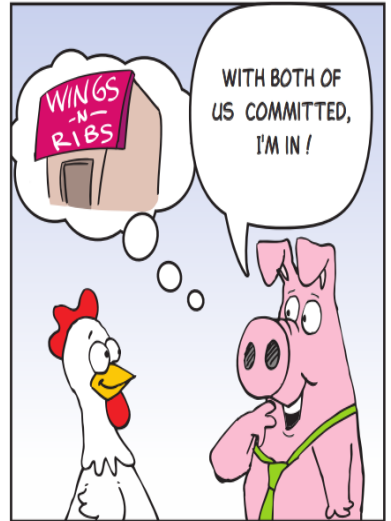
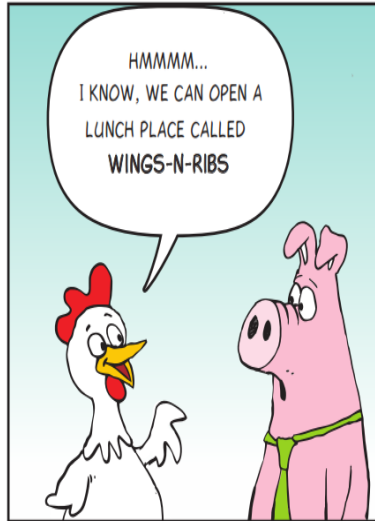
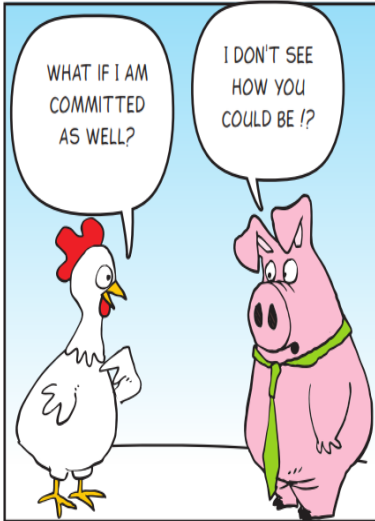
Luke 14 ²⁸ “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰ saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

³¹ “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

COMMITMENT WORKS BEST WHEN IT'S IN COMPANY



PIG & CHICKEN PART 2



Not a deal ... but commitment all round