

## “I’m Committed to Jesus....Just Not Too Much!”

A friend of mine recently sent me an article by George Barna who does a lot of statistical research on trends within our culture related to Christianity. The title of the article was *Americans Not Too Concerned About Their Spiritual Condition*. The basic point being made in the article was that Christians in our country generally report that their “faith is very important to them,” but then they also report that they face “few specific challenges to the development of their faith.”

Now while that might sound like good news (that people don’t feel as if they face any significant challenges to the development of their faith), I’m afraid that it could also reflect a general apathy that many professing Christians have when it comes to growing and maturing in their faith! In other words, if Christians are **content with where they are**, spiritually speaking, it could mean that believers in our country have become somewhat apathetic and **no longer see any need to grow** or be challenged in their commitment level to Christ.

Not long ago, the pastor of a church here in South County reported that he had been noticing that there were more people in his church who were worshiping with less frequency. Although people are still committed to their faith and to their church, they seem to be viewing their commitment level to Christ and their church as something they can **pull back on** rather than be **challenged to increase**. This pastor pointed out that for many Americans, Sunday has become just another fun day and as a result, even Christians are spending their Sunday mornings sleeping, meeting friends for brunch, running kids to another sporting event, doing errands and preparing themselves for the work week ahead.

Jesus never asks for the kind of half-hearted commitment that so many of us are content to live with in this society. In fact, Jesus tends to ask His followers to look for ways to **increase** their commitment level to Him rather than to decrease it. In Matthew 10:37-39 Jesus says, *“Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”*

Certainly there are many things in our lives that compete for our allegiances. Let’s make sure that as believers in Jesus we do not let our commitment to the Lord diminish just so some other commitment can be increased.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jim