

Liberty Church Values: 6. A devoted people.

Love, loyalty and enthusiasm for the Lord, His people and His cause would be an accurate description of the early church believers. It is our aim to create a culture of devotion amongst the Lords' people that reflects the culture of the early church in the book of Acts, where "they devoted themselves". At Liberty church we believe that God revealed His devotion to us through the incredible selfless act of giving us His Son Jesus along with the multitude of His promises to provide for our every need. We believe that our only reasonable response to this amazing truth should be nothing less than our devotion to Him.

Sections

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- 2/. The demonstration of Gods devotion to us .
- 3/. The call to devotion
- 4/. Devotion as a response.
- 5/. Biblical Examples of a devoted people :
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1/. What does it mean to be devoted?

- Old Testament.

Things doomed to destruction. Devoted things.

Or things accursed. Can be offerings to Yahweh or idols. Kay Cherem cherem.

- New Testament.

There are only two instances where the greek word for devotion is actually used in the new testament.

Greek: Sebasma

Devotions (misplaced) Acts 17 : 22-23 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the **objects of your worship (devotions)** , I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:

That is worshipped. (opposed). 2 Thessalonians 2 : 3-4 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or **that is worshipped**, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God



Devotion : The English dictionary Word devotion means "To be extremely loving and loyal" or having enthusiasm for a person or activity:

This quality of being devoted is made up of a number of different character traits all expressing the attitude or actions of being a devoted person.

Some words to describe devotion:

Committed
Dedicated
Faithful
Firm (as in being Certain)
Steadfast
True (as in being sincere)
Unwavering (steady or resolute)

2/. The demonstration of Gods devotion to us .

- He has given His best for us.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- He has made everything He has available to us.

Romans 8:31-32 "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

- He has promised to supply us with everything we need.

Philippians 4:19 "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

- He has promised that no matter what, He will never leave us or forsake us.

Hebrews 13:5. Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."



3/. The call to devotion

- Devotion to God.

Matthew 22:36-38 ""Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, " **'You shall love the LORD your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment.

Romans 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that **you present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

- Devotion to each other.

Matthew 22:36-40 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, " **'You shall love the LORD your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: **'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'** On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.""

John 13:14 A new commandment I give to you, that you love (**devote yourself to**) one another; as I have loved (**devoted myself to**) you, that you also love (**devote yourself to**) one another.

1 John 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

- Devotion to the call.

Ephesians 4:1-3 Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. 2 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. 3 Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

- Devotion To the word.

2 Timothy 1 : 13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

- Devotion To our confession of our hope.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.



- Devotion to the true riches of Gods kingdom.

Luke 16:11-13. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? 13 "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

Context. Stewardship of other peoples possessions and finances.

- Devotion To His name.

Revelation 2:13 "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

Context. Martyred. Not giving in to persecution. We are all tempted to hide in silence.

- Devotion To moral living.

Revelation 3:3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

Context: Not allowing sinful, worldly behaviour into the church.

4/. Devotion as a response.

- Personally.

II Peter 1:1-9 NKJV. "Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. **BUT ALSO FOR THIS VERY REASON, GIVING ALL DILIGENCE,** add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins."



"BUT ALSO FOR THIS VERY REASON, GIVING ALL DILIGENCE."

For what reason? "as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him"

- Corporately

Devotion as a response to devotion being received.

Acts 2:41-47 **"THEN THOSE WHO GLADLY RECEIVED HIS WORD** were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

5/. Biblical Examples of a devoted people.

- Generosity amongst the saints.

1 Corinthians 16:15-16 I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints— 16 that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us.

Philippians 4:18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

- Continuous prayer and love for each other.

Colossians 1:3-4 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints;

Ephesians 1:15-16. Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

Meeting each others needs.



- Faithfulness in Christian service.

Colossians 1:7 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,

- Good attitude towards biblical authority.

Hebrews 3:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Within Biblical guidelines. Legal, biblical, morally and ethically sound.

Some examples of what a biblically devoted person is NOT willing to do.

Devotion is not just shown by what people are willing to do, but also by what they are not willing to do.

- Not willing to grow weary.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Weary. Greek Ekkakeo.

Means bad, or weak, with the implication of failing in heart, become faint hearted or losing heart in the context of "not seeing results quick enough" shown by the rest off the verse where it says "for in due season we shall reap if we faint not" , Faint, literally or figuratively "to relax".

Well doing means to live virtuously, be beautiful, that is maintaining a good moral character, living well.

2 Thessalonians 3:13. But as for you, brethren, do not grow **weary** in doing good.

Weary. Same Greek Ekkakeo. Lose heart, become bad, weak, regarding moral character. Same context of not willing to give up **doing good, living virtuously**.

- Not willing to forsake assembling together.

Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- Not willing to be brought under control to fleshly appetites.

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

e.g. Food. Tv.



- Not willing to yield to sin.

Romans 6: 11-13 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

- Not willing to remain silent.

Acts 4:29 And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word.

6/. Conclusion

Philippians 3:10-16 "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind."

