

Total Love

- How many die hard sports fans do we have?
- Are you totally committed to your team or teams?
- What are some other things that we are totally committed to?
- Family, friends, pets, job, church... you can fill in the blank
- Just before our scripture Moses reminds the Israelites of the ten commandments.
- Moses is reminding them that it is important to be committed to God.
- In verse 4 Moses declares that God is absolute. There are no other gods. **Deuteronomy 6:4**
“Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.
- Listen- to hear intelligently (often with implication of attention, obedience- *Strong’s concordance*)
- It is an important fact for the Israelites and us to Understand that there is none like Yahweh. He is the one and only God and we are to love Him totally.
- Love- to like or desire (something) very much: to take great pleasure in (something)
- Do we desire God with all that we are? Does our whole being take pleasure in Him?
- Are we all in? Totally committed?
- What does it look like to be totally committed?
- Do we wear WWJD bracelets? Do we always speak church language like; sanctified, holy, righteous, born again. Do we always wear Christian clothing and symbols?
- First being committed to God is not an option. We are commanded to be committed to God.
- **Deuteronomy 27:10 (NLT)**
- **10 So you must obey the LORD your God by keeping all these commands and decrees that I am giving you today.”**
- **2 Timothy 2:22 (NLT)**
- **22 Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.**
- **Matthew 22:37–38 (NLT)**
- ³⁷ **Jesus replied, ““You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’** ³⁸ **This is the first and greatest commandment.**
- We must love God completely! This is the beginning and the end of obeying all the commands of God. Jesus also said that all the commandments hang on two things to love God completely and love your neighbor as our self.

- How do we express that love of God?
- We delight in worship.
- **Psalm 43:4 (NLT)**
- **4 There I will go to the altar of God, to God—the source of all my joy.**
- **I will praise you with my harp, O God, my God!**
- **Psalm 27:4 (NLT)**
- **4 The one thing I ask of the LORD— the thing I seek most—**
- **is to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,**
- **delighting in the LORD’s perfections and meditating in his Temple.**
- **Psalm 122:1 (NLT)**
- **1 I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”**
- Do we long for Sunday to come. Do we get excited like a child on Christmas morning? Can we say with all honesty I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD?”
- The next expression of our love and commitment to God is;
- Love for the word of God
- **Psalm 1:2 (NLT)**
- **2 But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night.**
- **Psalm 19:10 (NLT)**
- **10 They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold.**
- **They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb.**
- **Jeremiah 15:16 (NLT)**
- **16 When I discovered your words, I devoured them.**
- **They are my joy and my heart’s delight, for I bear your name,**
- **O LORD God of Heaven’s Armies.**
- Do we find ourselves wanting to read His word?
- When troubled do we turn to His word?
- Don’t we hang on every word of someone we love and are committed to? It should be the same with God. The psalmist delights in the law and puts a high value on the commands of God. Jeremiah describes God’s word as his joy and hearts delight.
- Self-sacrifice is another way of expressing our love for God.
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- **Romans 12:1 (NLT)**
- **And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.**
- **Philippians 3:8 (NLT)**
- **8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ**
- Our lives according to Paul are a living sacrifice and the things of this world are garbage compared to having that relationship with Jesus.
- When we love someone totally it is easy to sacrifice our wants and desires.
- The next expression of our love for God is giving.
- **1 Chronicles 29:3–5 (NLT)**
- **3 “And now, because of my devotion to the Temple of my God, I am giving all of my own private treasures of gold and silver to help in the construction. This is in addition to the building materials I have already collected for his holy Temple. 4 I am donating more than 112 tons of gold from Ophir and 262 tons of refined silver* to be used for overlaying the walls of the buildings 5 and for the other gold and silver work to be done by the craftsmen. Now then, who will follow my example and give offerings to the LORD today?”**
- **2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)**
- **7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”**
- David donated all of his personal wealth for God’s temple. He did this because of his love and devotion to God. Paul tells us that we need to decide in our hearts how much to give and to give cheerfully.
- We give gifts to our loved ones to show how much we love them. Shouldn’t we give to God to show our love to Him?
- To show our devotion to God we must be obedient to His commands.
- **1 John 5:3 (NLT)**
- **3 Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome.**
- **Psalm 40:8 (NLT)**
- **8 I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your instructions are written on my heart.”**

- God's commands are not a burden to those that love Him. Just like doing things for the ones we love. A mother going the extra mile for her children or a husband doing the extra things for his wife.
- We need to obey God and we need to realize that there is great joy in being obedient.
- The last thing that I want to put on this list of how we express our love for God is loving others.
- I believe this is one is extremely important.
- **1 John 4:11 (NLT)**
- **11 Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.**
- **1 John 4:21 (NLT)**
- **21 And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.**
- **John 15:12 (NLT)**
- **12 This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.**
- **John 13:35 (NLT)**
- **35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."**
- We are to love. Not to judge or criticize or be negative to anyone.
- I want us to take a hard look at this list and ask ourselves where do I fall short?
- God wants our total devotion to Him.
- We can't straddle the fence and be totally devoted to Him.
- None of us are perfect and we need to be constantly looking for the areas that we fall short.
- Let's make that total commitment to the one and only God. The one that loves us so much that He sent His Son to save us.