

TALK IT OVER

Beyond the Status Quo

BOTTOM LINE

Following Jesus is never normal; it is always against the grain.

CONVERSATION STARTER

What's the best great moment of 2026 so far?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily:
newpointe.org/thedaily
- [Give God Your Whole Heart](#)
(12 min.)

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. 2 Chronicles 16:9 NIV

No one can serve two masters. Matthew 6:24 NIV

Above all else, guard your heart. Proverbs 4:23 NIV

What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Mark 8:36 NIV

Anyone who wants to be my follower must love me more than your own mother and father... yes, more than your own life. Luke 14:26 TLB

Give yourselves completely to God ... to be used for his good purposes. Romans 6:13b TLB

"Commitment to Christ is not about convenience; it's about courage. It's choosing to swim upstream when everyone else is drifting downstream."

"Fully following Jesus comes at a cost. It will sometimes set you apart, make you unpopular, or require sacrifice. But non-commitment costs far more. A life built on the world's values leads to emptiness. A fully-committed life is a counter-cultural life."
— Quotes by Dwight Mason

TALK IT OVER

It is normal and natural to conform and not make waves. Commitment requires intentionality and focus. Have you intentionally prepared for 2026? If so, how? **My commitments show my priorities.** How do your calendar and checkbook show them? **My priorities show my heart.** Truth is, we all do what we truly want or think is most important. That's ouchy to admit. Discuss. **My priorities determine my destiny.** No one ends up anywhere by accident. How are your choices determining your life destiny (health, family, finances, etc.)? How are they determining your eternity? Has your commitment to Christ so far cost you more or less than you expected? Explain. How is commitment to time with God first thing in the morning working out for you? If mornings are impossible for you, how can you work it out otherwise? A Sabbath is necessary for every follower. How do you keep a Sabbath for your priority relationship? What if your job requires Sunday work? Giving first with our finances shows our deep priorities. How would you explain that to someone who has not experienced or chosen to do that? If I am truly committed, God and His Word/plans will have first place in all my decisions. How do you know when you are not getting this right? What can you do to avoid distractions and refuse complacency and be truly counter-cultural?

ACTION STEP

This week I will intentionally define my commitments in these areas for 2026. I will write them and keep them where I can see them and hold myself accountable: _____