

# LIVE *for a* C·H·A·N·G·E

Part C – Commits to God and His Family

July 31, 2016  
Pastor Mark Hartman

*“Our greatest fear must not be failure. Our greatest fear must be succeeding at things that don’t matter.” (D.L Moody, 19<sup>th</sup> Century)*

*Isaiah 43:6-7 “Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth-- <sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by My name, whom I created for My Glory.” (NIV)*

*John 17:4 “I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave me to do.” (NIV)*

## 1. WHAT SUGAR CREEK IS STRIVING TO ACCOMPLISH.

- A. *“Our purpose is to love and lead all people to Life Change in Christ.”*
- B. Our church’s strategy is to move people along a path of spiritual growth that includes four key points: worship, connect, serve and share.
- C. Several years ago we developed a list of 6 Life Change Indicators that represents the areas of spiritual maturity taught in the Bible.
- D. Life Change Indicators Online assessment:  
<http://sugarcreek.net/lifechage>

2. COMMITMENT TO GOD BEGINS WITH TRUSTING IN **CHRIST** ALONE FOR YOUR SALVATION. (John 3:3)

A. *John 3:3 "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is **born again**."*

B. Our physical birth brings us into this world and our spiritual **birth** changes the way we live this life and our eternal destination.

C. *John 10:10 "I have come so that they may have life and have it in all its fullness."*

D. How To Commit Your Heart To Christ:

1. Recognize that you have **sinned**.

*Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (KJV)*

2. Recognize that sin has separated us from God.

*Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (KJV)*

3. Recognize that Jesus died on the cross to pay the **penalty** for our sin.

*Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrated his love toward us, in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (KJV)*

4. Recognize that Jesus rose from the grave and now offers forgiveness for our sin through repentance and faith in Him.

*Romans 10:9 "If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God hath raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*

5. Make the **decision** to accept Jesus Christ by grace through faith into our life.

3. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE RECEIVE CHRIST?

A. Our Sins are **Forgiven**.

*Colossians 1:13-14* “For He has rescued us from the one who rules in the kingdom of darkness, and He has brought us into the Kingdom of His dear Son. <sup>14</sup> God has purchased our freedom with Christ’s blood and has **forgiven** all our sins.” (NLT)

B. We become a member of God’s **Family**.

*John 1:12* “To all who received Christ, to those who believed in His name, He gave the **right** to become children of God...” (NIV)

C. God’s **Spirit** comes into our life to help us live life for Him.

*Ephesians 1:13* “And now you also have heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, He identified you as His own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom He promised long ago.” (NLT)

D. Heaven becomes our Final Destination.

*John 5:24* “I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has **eternal** life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.” (NIV) (Jesus)

4. COMMITMENT TO GOD IS ABOUT NOW LIVING FOR HIM.

A. Commitment to God means to progressively know better who God is and what He desires in our life. It is a **deepening** love and commitment to Him.

B. *Matthew 16:24* “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his **cross**, and follow Me.” (NKJV)

5. OUR COMMITMENT TO GOD IS ALSO EXPRESSED IN OUR COMMITMENT TO HIS **FAMILY**.

*Matthew 16:18* “I will build **My** church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

A. A church helps us center our lives on **God**.

B. A church helps us **connect** with other believers.

- 1. God never intended for us to be **alone**.
- 2. *Hebrews 10:25 “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (NIV)*
- C. A church helps us grow spiritually.
- D. A church helps us organize to **help** others.
- E. A church helps us communicate God’s message of the gospel to others who don’t know Him.

*CDs and DVDs of today’s sermon or previous sermons are available for purchase after the service at our Water’s Edge Resource Center.*

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