

The Words Behind the Photo

A college man walked into a photography studio with a framed picture of his girlfriend. He wanted the picture duplicated.

This involved removing it from the frame. In doing so, the studio owner noticed the inscription on the back of the photograph:

My dearest Tom, I love you with all my heart. I love you more and more each day. I will love you forever and ever. I am yours for all eternity.

It was signed *Diane*. And it contained a P.S.: *If we ever break up, I want this picture back.*

That young lady's commitment seemed a bit questionable!



In 2014, at Life Care's annual management meeting, a theme was *All In*, indicating strong commitment to our resolve to love and to serve.

I like what Jan Gordon, an executive, career and personal coach, says about the subject: "When we stand behind our words, we demonstrate commitment. Commitment exists when our actions meet the expectations of our

words – when there's a congruency between intent, words and action."

Gordon lists *Top Ten Truths About Commitment*. Here they are:

1. **Commitment is connection.** Commitment is the connection between our values, intentions and our actions.
2. **Passion: the essence of commitment!** Passion is that which deeply stirs us. It's the fire from within and that which motivates us. When passion is missing, our actions lack meaning and we don't get the results we want.
3. **Commitment = persistence.** If one is committed, one's support is uncompromising and unending. One is willing to do anything in support of the commitment. This applies to love as much as it applies to professional or global commitments.
4. **Commitment is unconscious!** Commitment requires insight and self-awareness – one must know what one's values and ideals are in order to commit to them. Commitment is difficult if you don't know what's most important to you!
5. **Commitment is purposeful.** Commitment involves choice – saying yes to our values and to our passions. Commitment is never haphazard or random.

(more)

6. **Commitment is self-expression.** Self-expression is the culmination of who we are and how we're being.
7. **Vision brings forth our commitment.** Does commitment generate the envisioning process, or does vision generate commitment? Either way, commitment and vision are inexplicably tied together.
8. **Commitment inspires us to be and do our best.** We aim for the sky and shoot for the stars! We refuse to accept less than the best from ourselves and others. Our commitment inspires us to reach for quality and excellence.
9. **Commitment lives in communication.** While commitment dwells in the declaration and words, evidence of commitment lives in the actions we take and don't take.
10. **Commitment is surrender.** Commitment is the giving of ourselves to what we most believe and want. It is the merging of our ideals and our being.



In the spiritual realm, commitment is very important for success as well: *Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established* (Proverbs 16:3 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter