



## What is the True Meaning of Loyalty?

**Philippians 1:21: (NASB) *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.***



Humanity is built for loyalty. We have wired within us a longing to be seen and accepted by others, as trusted and important. We are also blessed with a deep desire to give allegiance and live with faithfulness to those whom we deem worthy of our fidelity. If we just stop and think about loyalty for a moment, we will realize that it permeates all of our life decisions. We gravitate towards those people and things to which we attribute comfort and security, as we stay away from those people and things which we see as sources of alienation or disappointment. So, what makes loyalty work? Are there conditions that should always be present when we give or receive loyalty? What happens when we misplace our loyalty? How do we know our chosen loyalties are good and healthy?

### **Merriam Webster:**

**Loyal:** adjective

1. unswerving in allegiance: such as:

- a.) faithful in allegiance to one's lawful sovereign or government;
- b.) faithful to a private person to whom faithfulness is due;
- c.) faithful to a cause, ideal, custom, institution, or product

# Faithful

Marriage is a great example of where faithfulness is important, and it is one of the key covenants in our lives that that often gets broken.



**Personal perspectives, *The Science of Loyalty*, ACI, *What is Loyalty*, *Odyssey Creative***

- *Loyalty is all about appreciating what you've received from other people and organizations and providing your allegiance back to them as well. To me, it means staying true to myself and true to whoever I am associating with. Balancing the two things together.*
- *Loyalty to me is sticking by your product, your principles and yourself. And dedication - always being there, trying to be the very best for what you belong to. Trustworthiness and honesty.*
- *It's an interesting concept. It's one word, but it means lots of different things to different people, but I would say being trusted. So trust is an important factor to create loyalty.*
- *I think loyalty is something that doesn't just happen in a short amount of time. It's something that has to build up.*
- *It means stand with them through the good and the bad times.*

(Source: *The Science of Loyalty* from *The MHEDA Journal*; [www.mheda.org](http://www.mheda.org)) There are three beliefs behind loyalty: 1.) a sense of trust, 2.) a sense of belonging, 3.) a sense of purpose

Trust, belonging and purpose: With these three beliefs in mind, where and why should Christians place their loyalty?

Loyalty goes to God; first and always. Loyalty to God should be reflected in all we do.



The Ten Commandments show us how to be loyal to God. The first four teach us about being specifically loyal to God, and the last six teach us about how to be loyal to the human family, which is essentially being loyal to God.

**This precept is the FOUNDATION for any loyalty of any value:**

Exodus 20:2-4,7-8: (NASB) <sup>2</sup>*I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.* <sup>3</sup>*You shall have no other gods before Me.* <sup>4</sup>*You shall not make for yourself an idol...* <sup>7</sup>*You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain (we should speak God's name in seriousness and respect),* <sup>8</sup>*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

**Those to whom God Almighty is loyal receive His attentive and never-faltering care:**

Psalms 121:1-4: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>*I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall my help come?* <sup>2</sup>*My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.* <sup>3</sup>*He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber.* <sup>4</sup>*Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*

What happened to Israel when they were not loyal to God? God was still loyal to them, but His loyalty was in the form of punishment. He taught them just as a loyal parent would teach a child.

Loyalty goes to Jesus second, as he is the son of God.

**Trust:**

John 16:33: (NASB) *These things I have spoken to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.*

**Belonging:**

Luke 9:23-24: (NASB) <sup>23</sup>*And he was saying to them all, If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me.* <sup>24</sup>*For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake, he is the one who will save it.*

**Purpose:**

Matthew 5:9-10: (NASB) <sup>9</sup>*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.* <sup>10</sup>*Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

One of the primary purposes for a Christian is to be a peacemaker. We are not only to be peacemakers in this world, but we are called to be peacemakers for the world in the next age in the ministry of reconciliation.

For more on being a peacemaker, please see June 11, 2018, CQ Episode 1025: "Should We Be Peacemakers?"



**God and Jesus MUST be the foundation for all of our other loyalties, lest they be corrupted at their very outset by foolish pride.**



## What are the potential traps and delusions we may come across as we attempt to develop loyalty?

Even though we may be hard-wired for loyalty, it does not mean we are good at it by nature. On the contrary, the development of solid loyalties can be constantly challenged by a myriad of deflating and deluding outside circumstances. Sometimes our loyalties are just weak and need strengthening.

A rare thing, *Relationships - Loyalty is Rare, Trent Shelton*

- I am going to be real with you. Loyalty is very hard to find. It's rare. Finding somebody that's going to stick by your side through the ups and the downs, the thick and the thin, the good times and the bad times - it's rare. Most people are going to be in your life depending on the situation. If the situation benefits their life, they're there, but if it doesn't they're gone. So, finding somebody who's going to be there through it all is rare. Finding somebody or having somebody that stayed in your life when they had every single reason to walk away and they still stayed - that's rare. If you've got that type of loyalty in your life, do not push that person away. Do not push the person away that's been loyal to you.*



**Weak loyalty can develop  
because we are simply intimidated.**



Elijah neutralized the intimidation by showing that loyalty often needs courage for it to shine. 1 Kings 18:17-21: (NASB) <sup>17</sup>When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, Is this you, you troubler of Israel? <sup>18</sup>He said, I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, because you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and you have followed the Baals.

Elijah had been hiding from Ahab for three and one-half years. Elijah tells the king, *I have not troubled Israel, but you have because you have worshipped idols.* Elijah neutralized the intimidation of the king with truth.

<sup>19</sup>Now then send and gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, together with 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table. <sup>20</sup>So Ahab sent a message among all the sons of Israel and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel.

Elijah gave the king a command. Elijah neutralized the intimidation by **FACING it as God directed him to do.** When we are feeling "wimpy" we must understand courage is necessary, focus on truth and face the difficulties through a God-directed approach.

<sup>21</sup>Elijah came near to all the people and said, How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him. (Elijah is giving them an opportunity to prove their courage and loyalty to God.) But the people did not answer him a word.

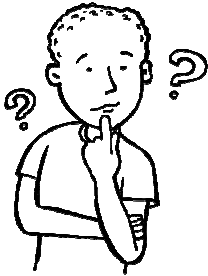


Elijah neutralized the intimidation by bringing the people face to face with it. The odds were BAD. If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him. He told them to make a choice. They were God's chosen people, but they were not living that loyalty. We do not want to be like Israel.

**Those to whom God Almighty is loyal are protected:**

Psalm 27:1: (NASB) *The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread?*

If God is protecting us, we have nothing to worry about.



I am not Elijah, so what are some practical ways I can show my loyalty to God now?

We should not be involved with politics and the affairs of this world, because our loyalty is to God and His kingdom. With Elijah, it was about worshipping God.

We can be loyal to God by following His guidelines. A few examples would be to honor our father and mother, fulfill our marriage vows, fulfill our commitment to God every day and follow in His son's footsteps. Do God's will and not our own. Following God's instructions should not be an option. True loyalty is not an option!



**Stop pushing away, Relationships - Loyalty is Rare, Trent Shelton**

- *Do not push the person away that's been fighting for you. Because I'm going to tell you something, that person is rare. There's going to come a point if you keep on doing the same things where they can't take it anymore. There's going to come a point they stop being loyal. There's going to come a point where they stop giving their forgiveness. Do not take a loyal person for granted. Cherish that person, love that person, appreciate that person, and most of all, change for that person. Get it right, man!*

When we are receiving wholesome and pure loyalty, you need to give it back. If you do not give it back, it may stop.



**Weak loyalty can develop because we are immature but trying to act all grown up.**





### Paul overpowers the immaturity by teaching that loyalty has integrity:

**1 Corinthians 1:11-13:** (NASB) <sup>11</sup>*For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you. <sup>12</sup>Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, I am of Paul, and I of Apollos, and I of Cephas, and I of Christ. <sup>13</sup>Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?*

He is frustrated by the weakness of their loyalty and their inappropriate direction. Paul addresses the immature errors of judgment - the foolishness of taking sides based on our own judgments when we have all been called to be on the same side. Be true to THE call.

**1 Corinthians 3:3-6:** (NASB) <sup>3</sup>*...for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, I am of Paul, and another, I am of Apollos, are you not mere men? <sup>5</sup>What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. <sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.*

God caused the growth, not men. Paul and Apollos were working as a team, but the people wanted to choose between them. Paul replaces the perceived need for taking sides with the actual need for team loyalty. He taught them that they needed to operate together as a team.



**For loyalty to be strong it needs  
the conviction of truth,  
the courage to stand and  
the integrity to act  
in accordance with God's  
predetermined design.**

**What are some examples of courageous and mature loyalty in action?  
What can we learn from them?**

The Bible is full of loyal examples as each and every hero of faith displayed a loyalty to God that was both strong and true. Our next examples will focus on allegiance in action both towards God as well as towards one another. Here is where constancy and fidelity rise above everything.

**Three questions: *Loyalty, James Kane, JTKloyalty.squarespace.com***

- This is something that is a science that all of you should certainly appreciate. It's understanding through how we work. You understand how our body works; I'm going to tell you how our brain works and what happens with every patient you have; what happens with every relationship that wants to come and be a part of your organization in one form or another as to why they would be loyal to you and why they wouldn't. And it is not about trying to manipulate them. It's simply about changing your own behavior. Loyalty evolved in us to answer these three questions: Do you make my life safer? Do you make my life easier? Do you make my life better? When you can answer those three, you'll make anyone loyal to you.*



## TRUE LOYALTY MUST OFTEN BE EXPRESSED SELFLESSLY.

As Christians, we need to focus on helping others and showing them we are loyal to them.

David had been anointed to be king in Israel. His best friend was Jonathan, son of the reigning King Saul who was losing his grip on reality and plotting to kill David. David knows this and asks Jonathan for help - against his own father.

**This mutual loyalty saves David's life as they plan a way for David to be alerted to trouble:**

1 Samuel 20:20-23: (NASB) <sup>20</sup>I will shoot three arrows to the side, as though I shot at a target. <sup>21</sup>And behold, I will send the lad, saying, Go, find the arrows. If I specifically say to the lad, Behold, the arrows are on this side of you, get them, then come; for there is safety for you and no harm, as the LORD lives. <sup>22</sup>But if I say to the youth, Behold, the arrows are beyond you, go, for the LORD has sent you away. <sup>23</sup>As for the agreement of which you and I have spoken, behold, the LORD is between you and me forever.

We see the beginning of the loyalty with Jonathan being willing to stand against his father if his father is standing against God.

## TRUE LOYALTY IS A TWO-WAY STREET

**As part of this loyalty Jonathan asked David for a promise of future protection for his family:**

1 Samuel 20:14-15: (NASB) <sup>14</sup>If I am still alive, will you not show me the lovingkindness of the LORD, that I may not die? <sup>15</sup>You shall not cut off your lovingkindness from my house forever, not even when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David.

## TRUE LOYALTY HAS A LONG AND DETAILED MEMORY FOR LIVING UP TO COMMITMENTS.

**Long after this, Saul and Jonathan died in battle and David is now king, and he overwhelmingly fulfills his loyal promise:**

2 Samuel 9:3, 6-7: (NASB) <sup>3</sup>The king said, Is there not yet anyone of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God? And Ziba said to the king, There is still a son of Jonathan who is crippled in both feet... <sup>6</sup>Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan... came to David and fell on his face and prostrated himself. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he said, Here is your servant! <sup>7</sup>David said to him, Do not fear, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you shall eat at my table regularly.

The king said, is there not yet anyone of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God - David keeps his promise of respect and loyalty to Jonathan. David brings Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, into his own family.



I am no king, so how can I simply and completely live a life of loyalty?

Stand up for God and His word when He is being put down.



I had a personal experience along these lines with a family member recently. They wanted me to stop my Christian walk and fight for their cause because they thought it was a greater purpose. I needed to stay focused and stand up for God and be loyal to Him.

We should ask ourselves, "Are we more loyal to financial security or national security than to God?" We must follow in Jesus' footsteps and do what Jesus did. We can also look to the apostles and what they did.

 **Trust, belonging, purpose, James Kane, Loyalty, [JTKloyalty.squarespace.com](http://JTKloyalty.squarespace.com)**

- *What we found is that our brain seeks three things: it looks for a sense of trust, a sense of belonging, and a sense of purpose. Every brain inside every patient, every relationship you have is seeking the same thing in you. Every time they walk into your clinic, every time you ask them for money as an investor, every time you are trying to persuade a physician or a PA or a nurse or anyone else to come to work for you, this is what their brain is looking for: Can I trust them? Do I feel connected to them? Is there something more to this relationship than just the exchange of money?*

**Those to whom God Almighty is loyal receive His instruction:**

Psalm 32:8: (NASB) *I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.*

When we go through the most difficult trials of our lives, we can trust in the love and loyalty of God.

*TRUE LOYALTY IS NOT A STATEMENT OR AN INTENTION;  
IT IS RUGGED AND TIME-TESTED.*

2 Corinthians 4:7-11: (NASB) *<sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; <sup>8</sup>we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup>always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. <sup>11</sup>For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.*

1 Corinthians 11:1: (NASB) *Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.*

**Loyalty in its proper place is inspiring and even life-altering!  
What happens when it gets misplaced?**

It is important to comprehend the elements and power of true life-changing loyalty. Understanding the disastrous consequences of misplaced loyalty is every bit as important. Looking around us, we see loyalty applied on many levels and in many ways that are just plain dangerous.



True loyalty is a life-preserving, give and take, promise-honoring way of being. It stands strong in the face of hardship, always points upward and is worth emulating.



Placing **yourself** over everything else.

**Satan is our best example:**

Isaiah 14:13-14: (NASB) <sup>13</sup>*But you said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. <sup>14</sup>I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.*

That was a breach of loyalty surpassed by none other.

Coming up on our next episode, August 27, "How Do I Strike Back at Betrayal?"



Blindly following **a fallen human being**.

Hitler exemplifies this disaster.

 Ending, Wehrmacht Swear Oath of Loyalty to Hitler, [britishpathe.com](http://britishpathe.com)

- "I swear to God this sacred oath that to the Leader of the German Empire and people, Adolf Hitler, supreme commander of the armed forces, I shall render unconditional obedience and that as a brave soldier I shall at all times be prepared to give my life for this oath."*

They were the officers of the German army swearing their allegiance to Hitler. Those who did not take this oath were killed. This is why we follow Paul AS HE FOLLOWED CHRIST ONLY!





# MISPLACED LOYALTY

**Ambitiously following an organization  
without questioning its practices.**

**Saul of Tarsus and his fierce passion fell into this trap:**

**Galatians 1:13-14:** (NASB) *<sup>13</sup>For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it; <sup>14</sup>and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.*

Saul was zealous for his ancestral tradition, not for God or the Law. His loyalty was misplaced. Once Jesus came to him in a vision, he converted, baptized and changed his life. He never looked back.



**What should I do if I find myself inappropriately loyal to a cause or person?**

Identifying a misplaced cause is the first step. We need to go to our brethren for help and counseling. Our loyalty should not be divided. Example: If you are in an inappropriate relationship or are involved with someone who is not free to remarry scripturally, your loyalty is divided. Do not justify the wrong behavior; stop it and then the Lord will bless you when your loyalty is in the right place. We need to make the correction with the misplaced loyalty.

**Those to whom God Almighty is loyal are generously blessed:**

**Psalm 84:11:** (NASB) *For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD gives grace and glory; no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.*

Going through a long miserable trial is part of the bigger picture of God's loyalty to us. He is watching us, giving us the blessing, strength and lessons. We need to become a stronger and more faithful follower of Jesus. Difficult trials are good, even though they may not seem good at the time. When we are past the trial, look back and say, "Look at what we were able to learn through God's grace." God is loyal.



**Simple game, *Loyalty* - James Kane, [JTKloyalty.squarespace.com](http://JTKloyalty.squarespace.com)**

- A very simple game that was created by a psychologist in Germany in the late 60's or early 70's was the ultimatum game. Some of you may be familiar with it. A very simple game. They took two parties - 'A' and 'B'. They told 'A,' "We're going to give you some money. You're going to decide how much 'B' gets." 'B' was in on it too. They knew that 'A' was going to decide. Round one: 'A' gets \$30, 'B' gets \$15. 'B' is happy. Round two: 'A' gets \$100, 'B' gets \$15. You laugh because you know the outcome - 'B' is not happy. In fact, 'B' is mad. Now, I want you to think about this. Why in the world would someone like 'B' walk into an experiment with no money, do two rounds, come out with the exact same outcome, \$15, be happy in round one and mad in round two? It's because we don't judge our experiences by the outcome; we judge them by the process.



In the beginning of the test, both groups were given \$15 each. Everyone was happy because there was a mutual understanding between them, and all seemed fair. In the second round, the 'A' group received \$100 and were instructed to give only \$15 to the other group. Now group 'B' is mad because they do not feel like they are part of the group anymore. They feel like there is a lack of loyalty. He was proving it is the *process* that develops loyalty. 'B' felt the process was violated.

If you are trying to have others be loyal to you or you are trying to be loyal to others, it is judged by the process, not by the outcome.



**Aligning yourself with  
those who oppose someone  
you are enraged at.**

#### **Ahithophel:**

2 Samuel 16:23: (NASB) *The advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if one inquired of the word of God; so was all the advice of Ahithophel regarded by... David...*

**Ahithophel was Bathsheba's grandfather and rebelled against David after his sin with her:**

2 Samuel 16:20-21: (NRSV) <sup>20</sup>*Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, Give us your counsel; what shall we do? <sup>21</sup>Ahithophel said to Absalom, Go in to your father's concubines, the ones he has left to look after the house; and all Israel will hear that you have made yourself odious to your father...*

**Ahithophel's misplaced loyalty counseled to commit the same types of sin that enraged him:**

2 Samuel 17:1: (NASB) *Furthermore, Ahithophel said to Absalom, Please let me choose 12,000 men that I may arise and pursue David tonight.*

**Ahithophel did not stop at that - he wanted David dead:**

2 Samuel 17:23: (NASB) *Now when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his donkey and arose and went to his home, to his city, and set his house in order, and strangled himself; thus he died and was buried in the grave of his father.*

This was a tragic loss of what was once a wise and mighty counselor to the throne of Israel.



#### **Loyalty Learned:**

**MISPLACED LOYALTY ONLY PRODUCES DISASTER.  
WE MUST CHECK AND RECHECK THE MOTIVATIONS  
AND CONNECTIONS OF THE LOYALTIES WE HOLD TO  
AND ASSURE GOD IS ALWAYS GLORIFIED BY THEM.**



## Based on all of these good and bad examples, how do we refocus and rededicate our Christian loyalty?

Having a template in place for what to do is always a good place to start. Fortunately, the Scriptures provide us with countless examples of what that template looks like. We will focus on three main loyalties we should have:

- Our loyalty to God
- Our loyalty to Christ
- Our loyalty to one another



Tell them who you are, *Loyalty* - James Kane, [JTKloyalty.squarespace.com](http://JTKloyalty.squarespace.com)

- *If I can't know who you are beyond just what you do, I can't possibly identify with you. We fill our offices with it. We put pictures on the wall. We put trophies and all kinds of things. You are willingly telling people who you are. The question is, are you telling the right things and sharing the things that can make connections with people, where they can identify with you? That's all you have to do, three things: build a sense of trust which you control, a sense of purpose and giving credit to the people who are making a difference to your practice and a sense of belonging.*

Trust, purpose and belonging. We cannot build loyalty unless we let people know who we are and not just what we do. This is a foundational point if we want others to be loyal to us. People are attracted to accomplishments but are loyal to people.

**REFOCUSING**  
our loyalty to God  
**BE STEADFAST FOR GOD**

### The three Hebrews and the fiery furnace:

Daniel 3:13,16-18: (NASB) <sup>13</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar in rage and anger gave orders to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego; then these men were brought before the king. <sup>15</sup>...But if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?

The threat was life-ending, and the challenge was faith-shaking!

<sup>16</sup>Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. <sup>17</sup>If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. <sup>18</sup>But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.

They did not need more time to reconsider; they were never going to bow down to the golden image, regardless even if the consequences meant death by fire.

Loyalty is established *in the process*, not in the end result. These three Hebrews told Nebuchadnezzar exactly who they were, what was important to them and that they stood for their faith no matter what. They would live or die being loyal to God.

We can mess up our loyalty to God if we worship idols such as cars, homes, people, wealth, etc. Our loyalty and devotion become divided and not focused, not God-centered. We live in a time where "things" are very important and vital.



While we are not faced with a literal furnace, sometimes we are faced with a "fiery furnace" type of trial and we need to stand up for God.

**Those to whom God Almighty is loyal receive eternal care, compassion and faithfulness:**

Lamentations 3:22-23: (NASB) <sup>22</sup>*The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail.* <sup>23</sup>*They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.*

When you have a God who is that dependable, it makes being loyal to Him a thrill and a privilege, not an obligation. His loyalty is overwhelming towards us.

## REFOCUSING

our loyalty to **Christ**

**BE CRYSTAL CLEAR IN YOUR**

**CONVICTION TO ONLY FOLLOW CHRIST**

**The example of the Apostle Paul:**

Philippians 1:21-25, 27: (NASB) <sup>21</sup>*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

**The equation for Paul's life was simple - it was just a matter of HOW to follow through:**

<sup>22</sup>*But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose.* <sup>23</sup>*But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;* <sup>24</sup>*yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.* <sup>25</sup>*Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith...* <sup>27</sup>*Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that... you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.*

*Standing firm - a sense of trust*

*One mind striving - a sense of purpose*

*For the faith of the gospel - a sense of belonging*

Loyalty always works the same way, but are we applying it on the right principles, towards the right things and the right people?

To be loyal to Christ is to ultimately embrace whatever the experiences are that lie before us. This can be difficult, especially when what is in front of us is not our preference.

## REFOCUSING

our loyalty to **one another**

**BE MERCIFUL AND ENCOURAGING**

**The body of Christ:**

Romans 14:5-8: (NASB) <sup>5</sup>*One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.* <sup>6</sup>*He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.*

<sup>7</sup>*For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself;* <sup>8</sup>*for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.*

Individuals on both sides of the issue of eating meat could be faithful. This is a great example to us. While it was okay to eat that meat given to idols, Paul realized the sensitivity and backgrounds of some would make it difficult for them to get over. It was still okay because their hearts were for God and no Christian principles, like morality, were being violated.

To be loyal to one another is to give each other space to grow in Christ, because God has given it to us.





## *Loyalty Learned:*

Living a life of godly and principled loyalty is a process of steadfastness, clear conviction and giving to others. It is honoring God by walking the walk and talking the talk of Christ.



We are loyal to that which we decide is important. Christian loyalty starts with loyalty to God - with loyalty to Christ built right on top of it as we walk in his footsteps. We are loyal to one another, because that is how we ultimately glorify God and Jesus.

*So, what is the true meaning of loyalty?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*



Join us next week for our podcast on August 27, 2018:  
Ep. #1036: "How do I Strike Back at Betrayal?"



## Bonus Material

***Loyalty is the center of self-respect and human dignity. It is a force which leaps into being only when conditions are exactly right for it. — Maurice Franks***

**First, the unfortunate oaths of loyalty from the days of Hitler:**

(Source: The Wehrmacht Oath of Loyalty to Adolf Hitler, 2 August 1934)

"I swear to God this sacred oath that to the Leader of the German Empire and people, Adolf Hitler, supreme commander of the armed forces, I shall render unconditional obedience and that as a brave soldier I shall at all times be prepared to give my life for this oath."

**Service oath for public servants:**

"I swear: I will be faithful and obedient to the leader of the German Empire and people, Adolf Hitler, to observe the law, and to conscientiously fulfill my official duties, so help me God."

Oath-takers then sang both Deutschland Über Alles and the Nazi anthem Horst-Wessel-Lied.

Thousands of military officers reportedly claimed to be ill to avoid taking the oath, but were forced to do so after returning to duty.

**Some who refused to do so:**

- Karl Barth (Swiss theologian); Consequences: loss of professorship
- Martin Gauger (probationary judge as a state prosecutor in Wuppertal); Consequences: forced retirement of his position as a state prosecutor
- Franz Jägerstätter (Austrian conscientious objector); Consequences: execution in 1943; beatified in 2007
- Josef Mayr-Nusser (from Bozen), after call-up for duty in the Waffen-SS; Consequences: Death penalty, died on the way to the Dachau concentration camp
- Joseph Ruf (de) ("Brother Maurus" of the Christkönigsgesellschaft (rel.)), Consequences: Death penalty
- Franz Reinisch (Pallottines padre from Austria), after call-up for duty in the German Wehrmacht; Consequences: execution by beheading in 1942

**Loyalty to God in the dramatic circumstances of having to face a giant:**

**1 Samuel 17:3-11:** (NASB) <sup>3</sup>The Philistines stood on the mountain on one side while Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with the valley between them. <sup>4</sup>Then a champion came out from the armies of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. <sup>5</sup>He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was clothed with scale-armor which weighed five thousand shekels of bronze. <sup>6</sup>He also had bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze javelin slung between his shoulders. <sup>7</sup>The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of his spear weighed six hundred shekels of iron; his shield-carrier also walked before him. <sup>8</sup>He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel and said to them, Why do you come out to draw up in battle array? Am I not the Philistine and you servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me. <sup>9</sup>If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will become your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall become our servants and serve us. <sup>10</sup>Again the Philistine said, I defy the ranks of Israel this day; give me a man that we may fight together. <sup>11</sup>When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.



### **David gets his bearings - notice he called Israel's armies the armies of GOD:**

**1 Samuel 17:24-27:** (NASB) <sup>24</sup>When all the men of Israel saw the man, they fled from him and were greatly afraid. <sup>25</sup>The men of Israel said, Have you seen this man who is coming up? Surely he is coming up to defy Israel. And it will be that the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel. <sup>26</sup>Then David spoke to the men who were standing by him, saying, What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God? <sup>27</sup>The people answered him in accord with this word, saying, Thus it will be done for the man who kills him.

### **David offers his loyal service to the king and to Israel, to fight on behalf of God:**

**1 Samuel 17:31-37:** (NASB) <sup>31</sup>When the words which David spoke were heard, they told them to Saul, and he sent for him. <sup>32</sup>David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine. <sup>33</sup>Then Saul said to David, You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are but a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth. <sup>34</sup>But David said to Saul, Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, <sup>35</sup>I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued it from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized him by his beard and struck him and killed him. <sup>36</sup>Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God. <sup>37</sup>And David said, The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Go, and may the LORD be with you.

### **David fights and wins for God:**

**1 Samuel 17:41-51:** (NASB) <sup>41</sup>Then the Philistine came on and approached David, with the shield-bearer in front of him. <sup>42</sup>When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, and ruddy, with a handsome appearance. <sup>43</sup>The Philistine said to David, Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup>The Philistine also said to David, Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the field. <sup>45</sup>Then David said to the Philistine, You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted. <sup>46</sup>This day the LORD will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, <sup>47</sup>and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD'S and He will give you into our hands. <sup>48</sup>Then it happened when the Philistine rose and came and drew near to meet David, that David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. <sup>49</sup>And David put his hand into his bag and took from it a stone and slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead. And the stone sank into his forehead, so that he fell on his face to the ground. <sup>50</sup>Thus David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and he struck the Philistine and killed him; but there was no sword in David's hand. <sup>51</sup>Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

### **The whole context of David's loyalty to Jonathan's disabled son:**

**2 Samuel 9:1-13:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Then David said, Is there yet anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake? <sup>2</sup>Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David; and the king said to him, Are you Ziba? And he said, I am your servant. <sup>3</sup>The king said, Is there not yet anyone of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God? And Ziba said to the king, There is still a son of Jonathan who is crippled in both feet. <sup>4</sup>So the king said to him, Where is he? And Ziba said to the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel in Lo-debar. <sup>5</sup>Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar. <sup>6</sup>Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and prostrated himself. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he said, Here is your servant! <sup>7</sup>David said to him, Do not fear, for I will



surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you shall eat at my table regularly. <sup>8</sup>Again he prostrated himself and said, What is your servant, that you should regard a dead dog like me? <sup>9</sup>Then the king called Saul's servant Ziba and said to him, All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson. <sup>10</sup>You and your sons and your servants shall cultivate the land for him, and you shall bring in the produce so that your master's grandson may have food; nevertheless Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall eat at my table regularly. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. <sup>11</sup>Then Ziba said to the king, According to all that my lord the king commands his servant so your servant will do. So Mephibosheth ate at David's table as one of the king's sons. <sup>12</sup>Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Mica. And all who lived in the house of Ziba were servants to Mephibosheth. <sup>13</sup>So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate at the king's table regularly. Now he was lame in both feet.

### A New Testament lesson of applying our loyalty to God when under trial:

**Hebrews 12:11-17:** (NASB) <sup>11</sup>All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, <sup>13</sup>and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed. <sup>14</sup>Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. <sup>15</sup>See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; <sup>16</sup>that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. <sup>17</sup>For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

