

Title: Loyalty (July 5th, 2017)

Text: (2 Cor 7:7) *Fervent Mind*

Lessons from my Preacher:

Hot or Ardent

Ardent means a Passionate Affection toward.

***Loyalty:** (Not in the Bible) Fidelity to someone.*

***Fidelity:** Faithfulness too; careful and exact observance of duty, or performance of obligations.*

Fervent, not luke warm,

Passionate Affection for

Fidelity to or Faithfulness to my relationship with someone.

Many people speak loyalty, but it's not a reality in their life.

(Prov 20:6) Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

We are not to act like the world.

Many people making wedding vows, only to divorce later.

Friendships are cancelled or allowed to expire, like gym memberships, because they have nothing to offer them anymore.

Professing Christians become unbelievers because their circumstances changed.

Fervent, Passionate Affection for, Fidelity, or Faithfulness to God whom yo say you have a relationship with?

I. Loyalty to God: (2 Cor 7:7) *Fervent Mind toward God...*

God is a true Illustration of loyalty (1 Cor 1:9) *God is Faithful.*

Scripture tells us that He remains faithful even if we are faithless.

*(Deut 7:9) Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, **the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy** with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;*

Even if a believer fails, God will remain loyal.

(1 Kings 8:23) LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepeth covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart:

We must trust in Christ alone for salvation.

(1 Cor 1:9) God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Do we have a Fervent Mind toward Christ! (2 Cor 7:7)

Are We Loyal to Christ?

Our love & appreciation for what He has done for us on the cross should ***stoke the furnace*** of our loyalty to Him.

Jesus paid our huge debt in full.

He is worthy of all praise.

Scripture makes it clear that nothing can snatch away our salvation in Christ. (Rom 8:35-39)

Our Fervent, Passionate Affection for, Fidelity, or Faithfulness to Christ should drive our Desire to obey

Him. (1 Kings 8:61) *Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.*

(John 14:15) *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

We should WANT to love Him more, and to get to know Him more.

God is a TRUE Illustration of Loyalty: (Heb 10:23) *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)*

(Heb 13:5) ... **for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**

A true Christian will die to self and Be Faithful to God 1st!

Our faithfulness to Obey reflects our loyalty.

(Heb 13:5) *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have:*

Covetousness is the desire to fulfill our flesh. It is the definition of ***Loyalty to the Flesh.***

Everyday our loyalties lie somewhere between SELF & the SAVIOUR!

Our Faithfulness to daily Bible reading reflects our Loyalty?

Our Faithfulness to daily prayer reflects our Loyalty?

Our Faithfulness to Witness reflects our Loyalty?

God is the very Definition of Loyalty:

Even when we are not Faithful, He remains faithful to us.

(1 Cor 1:9) *God is Faithful.*

Our main loyalty will be to Christ, but we are to also be loyal to others.

II. Loyalty to Family:

Fervent, Passionate Affection for, Fidelity, or Faithfulness to the Spouse to whom we say we have a relationship with? (Eph 5:25, 28,33)

Our Love, Compassion, Forgiveness, & Grace that we bestow on our family reflects our Loyalty to them:

Illus: *Shocker! You are married to a Sinner!*

Your Children are Sinners TOO!

(1 Cor 13:7-8a) *Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 Charity never faileth:*

Everyday our loyalties lie somewhere between SELF & the SPOUSE!

III. Loyal to your Church Family: (John 17:21) *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

Fervent, Passionate Affection for, Fidelity, or Faithfulness to this Church to whom you say you have a relationship with?

Illus: *Spoiler Alert!*

You belong to a church made up of Sinners!

Our Love, Compassion, Forgiveness, & Grace that we bestow on our Church family reflects our Loyalty to

them: (John 13:34-35) *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

Illus: Christians are like Porcupines.

Godly friendship is priceless:

(Prov 17:17) *A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*

Many people only show loyalty when something benefits them, but this should not be.

The Best way to have Loyal Friends, is to BE ONE!

(Prov 18:24) *A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.*

Does your Attendance at church reflect Loyalty?

Does your Tithing reflect Loyalty?

Does your Prayer for the Brothers & Sisters reflect Loyalty?

There's something wrong with your character if Opportunity or Circumstances controls your Loyalty to those you are in a relationship with.

If Opportunity to fulfill your flesh, or Circumstances God has allowed, controls your Loyalty to those you are in a relationship with.

II. Character: (Prov 16:21) *The wise in heart shall be called prudent:*

Prudent: Cautious; circumspect; practically wise; careful of the consequences of choices we make.

What is Character? *What do you think it is?*

“The peculiar qualities, impressed by nature or habit on a person, which distinguish him from others.”

Examples: Honesty, Integrity, Trustworthiness, & Diligence.

Something You Work At: *Character vs. Talent*
Character is a choice you make.

Loyalty is not just a word it's a lifestyle of consistent choices

Character is Developed Through Influences:

(1 Cor 15:33) *Be not deceived; evil communications corrupt good manners.*

What we see: *Internet, TV, Movies, Books, (PS 101:3)*

What we hear: *Music*

Who we hang around:

Parents: (Deut 6:6-7)

Teachers and Mentors:

Peers: (1 Cor 15:33, Prov 13:20)

Peers w/o character will keep you from developing yours.

Character is not bound by your environment:

(Jer 31:29-30) *Sour Grapes*

Well that's the way I was raised.

I've always been like this.

Many people have overcome poverty and bad home lives to become great people.

Stop making excuses.

It's a matter of humbling ourselves & developing new habits
Illus: I lived at home 20 years, I'm 50, get over it & grow up

Will Protect You: (Prov 22:1)

Will Prepare You: *A call to the ministry is a call to prepare!*
(Acts 9:6) The habits you develop now will be carried with
you the rest of your life. (Gal 6:7-8)

Will Preserve You: (Prov 3:1)

Compromise is a lapse in character:

Compromise is choosing to satisfy the Flesh instead of the
Savior;

Don't Settle for Brass: (2 Chron 12:9-10) Settling for less
How did this happen? It started back in verse 1

The Bait and Switch: (Jn 10:10) is a promise,
Compromise is us Settling for Less Than God's Best!

The Devil is out to trick us. *The Devil has no will for your
life, other than you just don't do the Will of God.*

Put Gold in our Salvation:

(2 Tim 3:5) Form of godliness:

(Deut 32:23) It will be apparent to everyone soon!

Put Gold in our Relationships: *Illus: You have to Own it!*

Be Genuine: LOVE PEOPLE

Illus: People out weigh the situation!

With Family - *Illus: People out way the situation!*

With Friends **Do you have any?**

Wanted: Low maintenance friends!

"For a man to have friends he must show himself friendly"

Illus: What if he gets a \$100K bonus?

Can you REJOICE with them!

With God: (Is 29:13) - is it Lip Service?

You have to Own It! – It has to be our walk with God!

Good Times? Gold/brass (Is 29:13)

How is our ...

Bible Reading,

Prayer,

Church Attendance,

Tithing,

Witnessing

Talk or Walk? (Jam 4:8) **Ask your schoolmates** - (1 Jn 1:9)

**Put Gold in our Service to God: We are settling for less
than the best!** (Col 3:23-24)

Foundational 5: (Lk 17:7-10) *1st Mile*, (Matt 5:41) **2nd mile**

1st mile is at the Threat of a lash, the 2nd is for Jesus!

Responding Properly to Tests, Trials, and Suffering:

Embracing what God has allowed to come into your life!

You will have tribulation! (Jn 16:33) *Ye shall have ...*

Trials Come: We get Serious, (Jn 16:33)

We get serious in the Trials (Like Gold)

Christ left us an example to follow: (1 Pet 2:21)

God uses these to grow our faith: (1 Pet 4:12-13)

Illus: You can't learn to sail on calm seas!

God uses these to mold us into the Image of His

Son: (Rom 8:28-29) It is a tool of the Lord to shape us!

Illus: Like dumbbells to work out with!

Don't Focus on the Trial!

Focus on the God who aloud it!

Illus: The Triangle Diagram.

God at the Top, us and the Trial.