

LOYALTY

Proverbs 20: 6 “Most men will proclaim everyone his own goodness. But a faithful (loyal) man, who can find?”

Although the word loyalty does not appear in the word of God, this essential characteristic is found everywhere and is expressed in a myriad of situations.

We see it in the lives of Abraham, Jacob, David, Johnathan, etc.

Loyalty is defined as commitment that is both unwavering and unbending. Biblically, it means faithful, devoted and dedicated in love (agape). Genuine loyalty cannot be coerced. It is a choice of the human will which makes it both precious and priceless.

In this hour, Loyalty to the things of God are under extreme scrutiny and attack. As we prepare to take a closer look at loyalty, we find that the enemy of loyalty is not denial but betrayal.

Matt. 24: 10 “And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.”

Mark 13: 12 “Now the brother shall betray brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.”

The most dramatic illustration of betrayal and disloyalty is that of Judas Iscariot. In stunning contrast, Peter was guilty of denying the Lord thrice yet, found repentance. The dramatic betrayal by Judas ended in despair and self-destruction. Of the 17 times that betrayal is found in the New Testament, 15 times in direct reference to Judas.

Loyalty and loyalties are a fact of life. We all them. All sorts of people are known by their allegiances and their loyalties. *Having the right loyalties is critical to living a life of spiritual success.*

We will look at 3 of the most important loyalties of a child of God:

A. THE TRUTH

Loyalty to the truth is without question, the pre-eminent loyalty. Loyalty to the truth qualifies and aligns all other loyalties.

Prov. 23:23 “buy the truth and selleth it not”

There must be some things that are simply are too valuable to sell, trade, let go of or walk away from.

This pre-eminent loyalty will produce spiritual guardrails that will protect us when other people, churches, friends, fellow students and even family members depart from the truth. By its very nature, truth divides and separates. But in every and any situation, “I am on the Lords side” Ex. 32:26.

B. GOD ORDAINED LEADERSHIP

The placement of Godly authority in my life beginning with my parents, is divinely undeniable, irrevocable and irreplaceable.

Eph. 6: 1 “Children, obey your parents in the lord for this is right...”

Heb. 13: 17 “Obey them that have the rule over you...”

Loyalty to God given authority is the first commandment with promise in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, it is a gift to us!

Eph. 4: 11-13. Reveals plainly that the Man of God is a gift from God to my life.

In 2 Kings 6: 5-7 gives us a incredible illustration of the importance of communicating with the Man of God. A young man is working to expand the house of God, and his axe head falls into the water. It is lost.

This following process of action, restores this young man, to his cutting edge

1. He recognized what was missing.
2. He recognized it was borrowed.
3. The Man of God asked “where did you lose it”.
4. The Man of God is part of the equation and **God performs the miracle!**
5. He is restored to his cutting edge.

This invaluable illustration reveals the necessity of keeping the channels of communication, transparency and submission clear and open at all times with the Man of God. As one that can only speak these types of miracles into my life, it is my personal responsibility to protect my loyalty to God ordained leadership!

C. THE CHURCH

The church or “called out one’s” is unlike any other group or environment on earth. The bible describes the church as: the bride of Christ, the body of Christ, a peculiar people, a royal priesthood, etc. **1 Peter 2:9.**

My relationship with my brothers and sisters within the body is invaluable. No one truly understands the New Birth, separation from the world, modesty, purity and holiness like those that are “born again” by water and Spirit.

My earthly family and friends may still enjoy one another but they will never grasp the depth of spiritual regeneration like my spiritual family. It is usually family and friends that attempt to persuade us to leave the church. Not because they are evil, but because they have no spiritual understanding.

The church understands and stands with me, prays with me and encourages me.

1 Peter 5: 8, 9 Reveals to us that all of those who come out of this present world into the church have challenges, difficulties and trials. But- the church understands!

The word “together” is used no less than 769 times in the bible. In the New Testament alone, it describes the various dynamics of the church.

We are gathered together, commune together, pray together, rejoice together, weep together, talk together, set down together, joined together, fitly framed together, builded together, come together, knit together, quickened together, planted together, shout together, clap together, worship together, run together, assembled together, sitting together in heavenly places and shall rise together!

THANK GOD FOR THE CHURCH...OUR CHURCH...MY CHURCH!