

Loyalty

Not IN SPITE OF but BECAUSE OF the Word of God

This word is a word you don't hear much. It is an important word in the life of a family, job, marriage, church, and Christian life. Can you imagine the damage a disloyal person can do to the cause of Christ? A platoon Sergeant can have, "His Men." A store owner can have, "His Customers." But if a Pastor has, "His People," he is labeled the dictator of a cult.

1 Cor 4:2 *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*

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

Titus 2:9-10 *Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; 10 Not purloining, but shewing all good **fideli**ty; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.*

4102 pistis

from 3982; persuasion, i.e. credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or **the truthfulness** of God or a **religious teacher**), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly, constancy in such profession; by extension, the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself:

KJV-- assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.

Loyalty - Fidelity to a prince or sovereign.
Faithfulness to a prince or a sovereign or spouse.

Loyalty is hard to describe.

It is Faithful But it is more than that firmly adhering to duty and truth.
It is commitment but it is more than that. to thrust together or give in trust to another
It is Fidelity but it is more than that. careful and exact observance of duty and obligation Firm adherence to a person or party with which one is united

Loyalty is more easily seen and observed than it is defined
Loyalty is not the absence of disloyalty. It is a positive trait not the absence of a negative one.

THERE ARE 3 FORMS OF LOYALTY

There is Disloyalty - Criticizes
Aloyalty - Silent
Loyalty - defends and never allows criticism.
It is complete defense and support
It not only does not say, "Did you hear about....."
It does not listen to, "Did you hear about....."

Loyalty is a word that is not in the Bible but there are pictures of it in the Bible.

Ruth was loyal

Ruth 1:16-17 *And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:*

17 *Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.*

Elisha was loyal

II Ki 2:2 *And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said unto him, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel.*

King David's Men were loyal

1 Chr 12:16-18 *And there came of the children of Benjamin and Judah to the hold unto David.*

17 *And David went out to meet them, and answered and said unto them, If ye be come peaceably unto me to help me, mine heart shall be knit unto you: but if ye be come to betray me to mine enemies, seeing there is no wrong in mine hands, the God of our fathers look thereon, and rebuke it.*

18 *Then the spirit came upon Amasai, who was chief of the captains, and he said, Thine are we, David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse: peace, peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine helpers; for thy God helpeth thee. Then David received them, and made them captains of the band.*

Everyone can be loyal
Even a dog can be loyal
Everyone cannot be talented or rich or brilliant
But everyone can be loyal
Loyalty is one trait that attainable by all.
Disloyalty is the one trait that is inexcusable.
It is the unpardonable sin in the eyes of man.
It is the most detestable and deplorable trait that a follower can have.
It has caused heartbreak to many leaders.
It has ruined the reputation of many leaders.
It has ruined the character of many followers.

Loyalty is the complete support and defense of a leader.

If there is something I think I cannot support I ask a question.
You are not loyal because you don't ask questions
You are not disloyal because you ask a question.

REASONS FOR LOYALTY

1.) **Respect for the work.**

Respect the Pastor because of his position and what he has gone through to lead a work for God like:

Starting in faith

Courage, Hard Work, Sweat, Toil, Time, Love, Money raised, Prayer

No one has any moral right to damage a work on the altar of hurt feelings.

If I feel I can no longer work happily in the situation, I should courteously and quietly resign and never offer or listen to any criticism of this church or our pastor.

NO ONE LIKES A NEGATIVE PERSON.

When you leave their presence you just want to spit.

When a person leaves it should be the same way that they came.

I don't have plans on going anywhere. I plan to raise my children here and work until Jesus Comes.

If I do leave it will be the same way I came, with the Preachers blessing and approval.

2.) Respect for success.

When one is a follower of a successful leader the very success of that leader should command loyalty.

If the follower disagrees with the leader he should always prefer his feelings to his own.

The success of the leader should lead the follower to have complete confidence in the wisdom of the leader.

I may not agree with a man doctrinally but I can respect a man's success.

It is amazing how someone who has never built a chicken coop can rebel against a master builder.

Someone who has never built a savings account can run a bank.

Someone who has never led a squad thinks they can lead an army.

Noah criticized by building a bigger work and finishing it.

Heb 11:7 *By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*

Neh 6:15-16 *So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.*

*16 And it came to pass, that **when all our enemies heard thereof**, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, **they were much cast down in their own eyes**; for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.*

3.) Respect for knowledge.

There are some things the leader knows that no one else can know.

Not just facts and talent but information about people and circumstances which he cannot share with the followers.

In other words the follower does not always have all the facts.

It may appear that the leader is taking a wrong course of action causing the follower to oppose the leader vehemently.

But if the follower knew the same facts he would do the same thing.

The follower should trust the leader even if the judgement at the present seems unwise.

If a follower cannot give this trust and confidence to the leader he shouldn't rebel or revolt. He should just tiptoe out quietly.

He has no right to talk to anyone about his differences with the leader and he should leave without causing so much as a ripple.

4.) Respect for the system.

Since there is no one here but us we have to choose leaders who will govern us.

This is why a country has a king or a president

a state a governor, a city has a mayor, a family has a father, a church has a pastor.

Someone has to be at the top.

If you don't like something then when you bring it up then try to give a solution.

The system itself should require loyalty from the follower to the leader.

When this system breaks down anarchy follows the break down and chaos follows anarchy.

God admonishes children to obey their parents.

servants to obey their masters

wives to obey their husbands

citizens to obey their government

5.) Respect for your future

Disloyal followers are seldom given loyal followers when they become leaders

Disloyal followers make poor leaders.

In almost every case where a follower tries to unseat the leader it fails and more harm is done to the follower than the leader.

Hatred always hurts the Hater more than the Hated

Gossip always hurts the gossipier more than the one who is gossiped about

There is also God's law of sowing and reaping

Gal 6:7-8 *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

8 *For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*

In the Bible everything reproduces after its own kind.

The teacher who criticizes the principal to the students will have students who will criticize the teacher also.

God has a way of letting our, "Chickens come home to roost."

The follower develops a character of being disloyal that hounds him the rest of his life.

When one is disloyal as a follower he is usually suspicious of those who work under him, for he has developed a life pattern which leads to failure.

Children of critical parents never end up in church later in life.

6.) Respect for the unsaved.

Gen 13:5-8 *And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.*

6 *And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.*

7 *And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.*

8 *And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.*

1 Tim 2:8-9 *I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.*

9 *In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;*

The testimony of the church in the community is the members attitude toward one another.

1 Tim 3:15 *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

John 13:35 *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

Others see the strife.

They hear the bickering

They see the disloyalty

How many will be in Hell because of bickering, negative talk, gossip, slander, criticism, vindication, retaliation and other traits spawned in Hell by Lucifer and His angels.

Loyalty is to a person but true loyalty comes from loyalty to the WORD OF GOD first.

Loyalty is defense and support of the leader.

If I defend the Bible and support it I can follow men who follow it.

Heb 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

People say

We follow Jesus we don't follow a pastor.

or

He preaches himself and not Jesus.

Look at how many times God says to follow the preacher.

1 Cor 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

1 Cor 4:16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

Blind Loyalty is following someone even if they disobey the Bible.

True Loyalty is you and I being loyal to God's Word together.

I can be loyal to a Pastor Baker because I know that He is loyal to the Word of God.

I am loyal because of the BIBLE not in spite of the BIBLE.

1Thes 1:5-6 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

6 And **ye became followers of us**, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

When you got saved and were filled with the Holy Ghost you followed God's man.

II Th 3:6-7 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

Very Few People have the Character to follow the Leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Judg 17:6 In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

Judg 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

Let me show you how important the Pastor is -----

Eph 4:8-12 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?)

10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

11 And **he gave** some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

The pastor is God's gift to you for your growth and maturing and service.

Pastor Baker looks for areas where you can serve and give of yourself.

Your attitude toward the Man of God is a manifestation of your spiritual condition and attitude toward the Lord.

What ever happened to the attitude among Christians

God I know you love me but please use me.

Lord I want my life to count for you in the lives of other people.

Father let me serve you.

Most people want a place of leadership instead of a place of service.

1 Tim 1:5-7 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;

7 **Desiring to be teachers** of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

Most want to be a teacher but they don't want to teach.

Don't be like Diotrophes----where you love the pre-eminence.

I don't worship Pastor Baker but I see his position as a great responsibility.

The best example in the Bible I know is: KING DAVID WAS LOYAL TO A DEGREE WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT.

1 Sam 18:9-12 *And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.*

10 *And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand.*

11 *And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice.*

12 *And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul.*

1 Sam 21:1-2 *Then came David to Nob to Ahimelech the priest: and Ahimelech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said unto him, Why art thou alone, and no man with thee?*

2 *And David said unto Ahimelech the priest, The king hath commanded me a business, and hath said unto me, Let no man know any thing of the business whereabout I send thee, and what I have commanded thee: and I have appointed my servants to such and such a place.*

1 Sam 24:3-6 *And he came to the sheepcotes by the way, where was a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave.*

4 *And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily.*

5 *And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt.*

6 *And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.*

1 Sam 26:8-12 *Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time.*

9 *And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?*

10 *David said furthermore, As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish.*

11 *The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD's anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go.*

12 *So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster; and they gat them away, and no man saw it, nor knew it, neither awaked: for they were all asleep; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them.*

David was thinking about one thing, - " That is God's anointed."

1 Chr 16:22 *Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.*

Ps 105:15 *Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.*

Then because David knew how to be loyal and practiced loyalty he gained loyal followers himself.

Abishai allowed human weakness(which every leader has) to destroy his loyalty.

2 Sam 16:5-9 *And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came.*

6 *And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.*

7 *And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial:*

8 *The LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou art taken in thy mischief, because thou art a bloody man.*

9 *Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.*

Abishai wasn't loyal to David's faults.

Abishai had watched King David and was loyal to the Principles that made David great.

Abishai knew that King David was out of character when he slept with Bathsheba.

If you would have asked him he would have said:

I know he did wrong but I have watched him do right and I know he is a human BUT I also know that He lives by great biblical principles and He is sincere.

I am not justifying what he did but I am saying that it was not his character. When he committed that sin he was, "out of Character." There is a difference between making a mistake and having a character flaw.

Mistakes are sins committed in temptation and weakness.

Character flaws are sins of a persons **lifestyle**.

Look at Ittai

2 Sam 15:19-21 *Then said the king to Ittai the Gittite, Wherefore goest thou also with us? return to thy place, and abide with the king: for thou art a stranger, and also an exile.*

20 *Whereas thou camest but yesterday, should I this day make thee go up and down with us? seeing I go whither I may, return thou, and take back thy brethren: mercy and truth be with thee.*

21 *And Ittai answered the king, and said, As the LORD liveth, and as my lord the king liveth, surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also will thy servant be.*

Look at David's men.

2 Sam 23:15-16 *And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!*

16 *And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD.*

Disloyalty is the most deplorable trait in the life of a Christian.

Loyalty is so important in the life of a Christian.

It is not disloyal to ask why.

It is not disloyal to give suggestions to leadership if the leadership is asking for suggestions and the suggestion is offered in the right spirit.

It is not and never has been disloyal to ask questions or Why or anything along those lines.

What I think is obvious is when a critic asks a question to discredit the one he is asking.

There are questions that I would never ask in public that I would ask in private.