

# LOYALTY

## INTRODUCTION

Why teach on the subject of “Loyalty and Disloyalty”? First of all, we have seen the relevance of this topic in the Word of God. Second of all, the Scriptures are filled with accounts of faithful people as well as deceitful ones.

We have seen inexperienced people who probably think that the more gifted they are, the more qualified they are for ministry. Our experience has shown us that it is the faithful and loyal people in the church who are most qualified to be leaders.

Lay leadership as well as clergy is a science that must be studied very carefully, not only for its assimilation but also for the application of its principles and the achievement of greater effectiveness in the activities developed in any human field, and especially in the field of loyalty and disloyalty.

***Leadership plays a very important role in the existence of the human being. It is a vital need that exists in the human heart. Jesus taught a model of leadership based on trust. The close relationship between Jesus and his disciples was continually expressed: “I am the good shepherd and I know my sheep, and my own know me...and I lay down my life for the sheep” (Jn 10:14). The disciples taught by their loyal example that it is possible to follow, live and die for someone: Jesus of Nazareth.***

Finally, a good **LOYAL** leadership promotes the unity and not the division of the Body, working hard for the vision and the Mission of the Pastor or Person in charge. We also thank the author of the original material; Apostle Dag Heward-Mills.

## Why Loyalty?

Why teach on the subject of “Loyalty and Disloyalty”? ***First of all, I have seen the relevance of this topic in the Word of God. The Scriptures are filled with accounts of faithful people as well as deceitful ones. There is so much to learn from these Biblical accounts.*** My few years in ministry have also made me aware of loyal and disloyal people. I have noticed the impact it has on churches and ministries. Today I will share with you the topic of loyalty.

## Keys To A Culture Of Loyalty

### **Key #1 The North Wind**

***The north wind drives away the rain, and the angry face the detractor tongue. Proverbs 25:23*** The Bible says that the north wind drives away the rain. A powerful storm is chased away by a strong wind. In the same way, the power of malicious detractor language can be neutralized by certain facial expressions.

Show the person through your face that you are not interested in their conversation.  
***...and the angry face [chases away] the detractor tongue. Proverbs 25:23***

### **Key # 2 Prune Consistently**

To have a culture of loyalty you must constantly prune those disloyal elements that get in our midst. Do not allow any leader to contaminate your valuable sheeps.

***...Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole dough? 1 Corinthians 5:6***

### **Key #3 Create Fire**

Sometimes it is necessary to create conditions to reveal disloyal elements within your team.

***...and a viper, fleeing from the heat... Acts 28:3***

When Paul arrived on the island of Melita, the local people kindly built a fire for him and his companions. Paul gathered some dry branches and threw them in the fire. Suddenly a viper came out of the fire and latched on to Paul's hand. One of the 'branches' was a snake! The fire exposed her. Before being subject to fire, some snakes may appear to be ordinary branches.

Rebellion is born from the heart. If a person is going to cause trouble, no amount of money or favorable conditions of service will stop it.

### **Key #4 Work With Willing People**

Make sure you don't have unwilling (trapped) people around you. One thing you should not have is someone who wants to leave but for economic or other reasons feels trapped within your organization. The hearts of such people are no longer with you. They can become traitors. Present a way for these people to leave peacefully. There is nothing better than working with a willing and happy person. ***For if there is first WILLINGNESS... 2 Corinthians 8:12***

### **Key #5 Teach Against Disloyalty**

Constant teaching on topics of loyalty and disloyalty is very important. Many people are ignorant about the unfolding process of disloyalty. In other words, many rebels are not aware of what they are doing. Constant education will prevent people from unconsciously engaging in deceitful activities. Anyone who wants to build a great church must constantly teach faithfulness and loyalty. Every minister will have his battle with temptations of disloyalty. Your leader will develop a culture of loyalty through your constant teaching.

## **I. Lessons In Loyalty**

### **Lesson #1 Loyalty Demands Complete Persuasion**

You must be completely convinced in your heart of everything in which you are involved. Being a member committed to a ministry requires what I call complete persuasion. If you're going to be loyal to me, you'll have to be sure of me. Am I someone you can trust? Am I the person I say I am? I once asked some pastors: What will make people stop talking about me? One person gave the correct answer. She said, "If you stop doing the work of the ministry, people will stop talking about you!" And this is very true.

#### **1. Jesus Was Accused**

In Luke 23:2, Jesus was accused by many people of: ***...lead our people astray... ...teaching the people to revolt... ...preventing them from paying taxes to the Emperor... ...telling them that it is not good to pay taxes... ...claiming to be an Anointed King...***

And in Luke 11:15, Jesus was accused of casting out demons because He was:  
*...in alliance with Beelzebub, the prince of demons...*

## **2. Paul Was Accused**

In Acts 24:5, Paul was accused of being *...a source of malice...a real plague...a public pestilence...a disturber of the peace...one who stirs up controversy...a fomenter of discord...the head of a sect...*

In Acts 24:6, he was also accused of being someone who: *...also tried to desecrate a temple...was trying to make the temple impure.* You must be fully persuaded so that when accusers, trials and tribulations come you will be able to remain faithful.

You must be prepared to confidently defend the integrity of the ministry. ***But I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and I am sure [English this word is persuaded]... 2nd. Timothy 1:12***

*Be Transparent in The Finances  
Transparent About Your Vision*

### **Lesson #2 - Your Loyalty Must Be To The Highest Authority**

In an organization like the church there will always be a number of different authorities that you will have to submit to. Obviously, some of them will rank higher than others. The lesson here is, if the loyalty question arises: Your loyalty must be to the person with the highest authority. The apostle Paul said: ***You follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Cor. 11:1***

### **Lesson #3 - A Loyal Person Does Not Withhold Information**

A loyal person is open with their authority about whatever is going on. I consider someone loyal if he shares with me about the corruption that is taking place. If I realize that he knew from the beginning, but did not say anything, I will consider him disloyal. There are several examples in the Bible of people not keeping information to themselves. Some of these led to great revelations and blessings. Paul said; ***“Indeed it is HEARD that there is fornication among you... 1 Corinthians 5:1***

Notice that Paul did not receive a word of knowledge about the magnitude of immorality within the church. Someone let him know. A good and loyal structure works through faithful people who inform those above about anything that is out of order. We would not have all the good teaching of 1st Corinthians 5, if someone had not reported this act of sin.

Observe how another family reports to Paul about some occurrences within the church. This report didn't even come from the pastor, but from an ordinary church member named Chloe. ***Because I have been INFORMED... by those of Chloe, that there are disputes among you... 1 Cor. 1:11***

Such reports lead to the edification of the church. A difference is found between holy reports to the proper authorities and gossip slander.

When you keep the information to yourself, you give the impression that you agree with what is happening. It is what we call complicity. If you discover an insurrection and arrest all the rebels, this is only the first step. The next thing to do is find out who knew about this. A godly report can save the life of a church.

## **Lesson #4 - Loyalty Is Based On Principles Not Emotions**

Many people operate on feelings and emotions instead of a set of principles. Decisions based on emotions rather than principles are not substantive. If you have decided to belong to something you must make your decision based on principles and not feelings.

### ***Jonathan Was a Person of Principles***

Jonathan, Saul's son realized that his father was wrong in principle, he was trying to murder an innocent man. So he decided to help David even though it was emotionally difficult to do so. Although his actions were directed against his own family, it was the right thing to do. Some people just follow the family line. Jonathan was not like that. Look what he said; ***But if my father tries to do you wrong... I will let you know and I will send you to go in peace... 1 Samuel 2***

## **Lesson #5 - Loyalty Will Cost You Relationships And Friendships**

Everything has a price. Education has a price. Even your salvation has a price. The Bible says that we were bought with a price. Loyalty also has a price. Being loyal to someone means you can't be loyal to everyone. Loyalty will cost you relationships and friendships. My loyalty to Christ has meant that I have been unable to keep some of my old friendships.

***Anyone, then, who wants to be a friend of the world, makes himself an enemy of God. James 4:4***

***"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brothers, and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:26***

Your loyalty is revealed through the friendships you keep. Some friendships will break if you are being loyal to Christ, your church and your pastor.

Jonathan's loyalty to David cost him his relationship with his own father. ***And Jonathan answered his father Saul and said to him: Why will he die? What have he done? Then Saul threw a spear at him. 1 Samuel 20:32-33*** . Notice that Jonathan almost lost his life because of his loyalty to David. Loyalty is costly.

## **Lesson #6 - Loyalty Can Cost You Physical Things**

The Bible teaches us that when Moses became a man, he had to choose between being loyal to God or to Pharaoh. His loyalty to God cost him everything. Moses could have become the next Prime Minister of Egypt. But his loyalty cost him his citizenship, passport, and royal status. He lost everything for Christ.

***By faith Moses, grown up, refused to call himself the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing instead to be mistreated with God's people... Hebrews 11:24,25***

## **Lesson #7 - Loyalty Demands Analysis**

When your loyalty is tested, you will have to analyze many things to be able to stay loyal. An analysis is a detailed study or interpretation of the information presented to you. I want to show you some things that you must analyze in order to stabilize your mind and heart in what you are doing.

### ***Analyze The Past***

I want to show you how Paul appealed to Timothy to analyze things. First, he said analyze the past. ***For which I REMEMBER YOU to revive the fire of the gift of God that is in you by the imposition of my hands. 2 Timothy 1:6***

Timothy was a man who might have strayed from his calling. Paul writes to him to remind him of what had happened in the past. We don't know exactly what Paul was reminding Timothy of, but I imagine it had to do with his calling. He told him: *"I am reminding you of something."* Think about everything that has happened in the past. How God called you and brought you to where you are today.

***Analyze The Individual To Whom You Are Going To Be Loyal To  
But persist in what you have learned and persuaded yourself, KNOWING FROM WHOM YOU  
HAVE LEARNED. 2nd Timothy 3:14***

When people make up all kinds of unruly stories and slanderous reports, think hard about what they are saying. Analyze the individual who is being criticized.

***Analyze The Form Of The Words You Have Heard  
Retain THE FORM OF THE HEALTHY WORDS that you heard from me... 2nd. Timothy 1:13  
And these were more noble. ..Scrutinizing the Scriptures every day... Acts 17:11***

### ***Marking the Rebel***

They asked: How can you ask us to stay away from a brother? The Word of God says, ***...that you mark those who cause divisions and stumbling blocks... And That You Stay Away From Them. Romans 16:17***

Throughout all the Scriptures you will find the historical records of Lucifer, the rebel; Absalom, Dad's killer; and Adonijah, the usurper. Ahithophel, the traitor; Sheba, the one who cursed King David, and Judas who betrayed Jesus are some examples of deceitful people. Can we not expect to see the same kind of people today? The Bible is a practical book and declares: ***What is it that was? The same thing will be... Ecclesiastes 1:9***

If you choose pastors and one of them turns against you, remember that the same thing happened to Christ. ***The Disciple is not superior to his teacher... Luke 6:40***

### **1 Kings 8:66**

***66 After the feast was over, the king dismissed the people. They blessed Solomon, and went home. They were very happy for all the good that God had done to David and his people Israel.***

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