

4. Loyalty

2 Timothy 4:9–10a

Do your best to come to me quickly, 10 for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.

Disloyalty is often seen when someone abandons people or abandons their post.

Loyalty is central to the Gospel.

Are there people you have been assigned to but have left because of love for the world. 1 John 2:16 speaks of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of this life as being from the world. When we love the world these are the things we are caught up in.

You don't go to your church because your Pastor is necessarily the best preacher but because you are convinced you should be there. Your children don't eat at home everyday because you are the best cook but because that's home.

Sometimes love for the world is seen in the parent who is addicted to success so much that he abandons his family in pursuit of his dream. Lebron James talks about how success can be addictive.

Loyalty goes upward, downward and sideways.

If loyalty is not in our value system then we can't build a great church or a business. We have to be able to trust people.

Hebrews 13:7-9

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.9 Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings.

Loyalty is a strong disposition and attitude of allegiance. When did you last communicate to your loved ones your allegiance? Tell them "I am on your side". Defend them. Don't back bite or slander. You might not spread rumours about me but do you stop them? Am I my brother's keeper?

Genesis 4:9

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

It's interesting that God was the one who asked him. Are you able to answer if someone asked you the question? Do you know where your brother is physically but also emotionally, socially, spiritually etc. Do you take responsibility to keep your brother with regards to his reputation being smeared? How loyal are you? There are people I know who will also defend me.

Gal 6:1-2

Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. 2Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfil the law of Christ.

There are levels of loyalty so this is not blind loyalty. You are loyal first to God and His laws. Then to your organisation and then the leaders and then your followers. Often in church we have people covering for each other instead of exposing deeds of darkness.

When people are loyal to you it helps you to advance in business. For example, loyalty with regards to your customers. How do you make them more likely to be loyal to you? That's why they continue to choose you over your competitors. They are grateful because you consistently give them more than they were expecting. They know that you have their best interests at heart. They know that you give them the benefit of the doubt. With the same measure you judge you will be judged. Keep surprising them with genuine care and plus one service. There are clients of mine that went through a tough time in the early days and I was there for them. Now they are stepping into their breakthrough and will be there for me. Don't despise the days of small beginnings. Where we go so will you.

When loyalty is broken sometimes we experience the sting of betrayal. Check your relationships. Are your expectations different? Do you relate to them at one level and they relate to you at another level? eg you see them just as a friend yet they are expected a greater level of loyalty and commitment. Eg people who have one best friend and don't allow them to have other friends. Unhealthy or illegitimate loyalty with unwritten rules. Be careful of this.

To have a large ministry that releases leaders there needs to be loyalty because one person can't do everything.

Some people come to church out of convenience whilst others come out of conviction. Even in marriage, some are there from a place of convenience so when things get inconvenient they pull out.

So what are some causes of disloyalty?

The Independent spirit -this person has a contrary spirit. They stay in the church but are always moving left when you are wanting to go right. They never plug into the areas you have unpacked in the vision. Their independence is cloaked in spirituality. They say God told me this is what I must do and it's never something that builds on what has already been communicated.

Erratic personality that makes decisions based on impulse

They get upset and do something foolish

Resentment, offence and bitterness

Heb 12:15

See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Mt 24:10

At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

Envy

- Envy causes you to malign someone else's reputation (whenever people praise that person you feel it's your duty to balance it out by saying something negative).
- You highlight their weaknesses of character, personality and ability

You avoid talking directly about grievances so you end up gossiping

You struggle with managing upward so you become a substitutional leader instead of representational

What are some different types of Disloyalty?

The Absalom Spirit – disloyal to your leaders

2 Sam 15:1-5

In the course of time, Absalom provided himself with a chariot and horses and with fifty men to run ahead of him. He would get up early and stand by the side of the road leading to the city gate. Whenever anyone came with a

complaint to be placed before the king for a decision, Absalom would call out to him, “What town are you from?” He would answer, “Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel.” 3 Then Absalom would say to him, “Look, your claims are valid and proper, but there is no representative of the king to hear you.” 4 And Absalom would add, “If only I were appointed judge in the land! Then everyone who has a complaint or case could come to me and I would see that they receive justice.” 5 Also, whenever anyone approached him to bow down before him, Absalom would reach out his hand, take hold of him and kiss him. 6 Absalom behaved in this way toward all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice, and so he stole the hearts of the people of Israel.

Often disloyal people are pretenders. They exaggerate their praise or appreciation meanwhile their heart is not pure.

Adultery – disloyal to your spouse

There are different types of disloyalty toward your spouse but adultery is one of the most extreme.

Malachi 2:13-16

Another thing you do: You flood the Lord’s altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer looks with favour on your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. 14 You ask, “Why?” It is because the Lord is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. 15 Has not the one God made you? You belong to him in body and spirit. And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring.[d] So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful to the wife of your youth. 16 “The man who hates and divorces his wife,” says the Lord, the God of Israel, “does violence to the one he should protect,”[e] says the Lord Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.

Types of Adultery: Once off pure lust; Seasonal affair based on unmet needs and emotional closeness; ideal target; spiritual attack as a result of spiritual promotion and demonic assignment.