

No. 3 **Maintain Loyalty in . . . (Symposium)**
 -Word!

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes a video]

OUR LOYALTY IS TESTED IN WORD (2 min.)

Our loyalty begins with thoughts, as considered in the preceding talk, but it does not end there

Our *speech* is a reflection of our thoughts (Mt 12:34)

Jehovah is a God who communicates, and he has given us the ability to do the same (Ge 1:26)

While God's use of communication has always been for good, our use of the gift of speech can be for good or for bad (Jas 3:5-10)

DO NOT SOW SEEDS OF DISLOYALTY (6 min.)

Do not underestimate how the power of your words can affect the loyalty of others

Negative speech in front of children, Bible students, or others can undermine their appreciation for and confidence in those whom Jehovah is using to take the lead

Ten out of the twelve spies sowed seeds of disloyalty because of their negative report regarding the Promised Land (Nu 13:27-33)

As a result, "all the Israelites began to murmur against Moses and Aaron" [Read Numbers 14:2, 26, 27]

The words of only ten people affected the loyalty of the entire nation

We must also guard against expressions of sympathy or support for Satan's system of things

The Israelites were commanded not to mention the names of other gods (Ex 23:13; Jos 23:7)

This meant that they were not to refer to false gods with feelings of awe or in a way that would credit those gods with any existence or power

False gods were to be regarded with contempt, as valueless, shameful, detestable, and disgusting

Imagine the effect on others when kings and prophets made supportive or even sympathetic comments about false gods! (2Ki 1:2; Jer 2:8)

Israel's history shows that such verbal disloyalty by those in responsible positions turned many away from true worship

Parents, elders, and others with a measure of authority must think carefully about how their comments about this system of things, its values, and its entertainment can affect others

OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPRESS YOUR LOYALTY IN WORD (5 min.)

Clarifications of our beliefs and adjustments in organizational procedures might test our loyalty

Are our expressions about such changes positive or negative?

It is possible for our emotions to hinder our loyal support

Imitate the apostle Peter's example

The Jews began to murmur and argue with one another when they found Jesus' words hard to understand (Joh 6:41, 52)

When Jesus used graphic, figurative language to emphasize the importance of exercising faith, many reacted negatively and stopped following him (Joh 6:53-60, 66)

Peter, however, avowed his loyalty to Jesus, even though he probably did not fully understand what his Master had just said

[Read John 6:67-69]

Peter did not reason that Jesus must be mistaken and would in time retract his comments (w12 4/15 10-11 ¶10-11)

He humbly recognized that Jesus had "sayings of everlasting life"

How encouraging Peter's expressions must have been to other faithful apostles!

Peter is a fine example for us when we encounter a point hard to understand

In the following dramatization, note how our sister strives to maintain her loyalty in word

VIDEO (3 min.)

YOU CAN MAINTAIN LOYALTY IN WORD (1 min.)

When your loyalty in word is tested, will you be like the ten disloyal spies or like loyal Peter?

By your speech, you can defend Jehovah and those he is using to take the lead

Brother _____ will now consider the final part of this symposium, "Maintain Loyalty in . . . Action!"

TO BE COVERED IN 17 MINUTES

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