

No. 17 Loyalty—Part of the New Personality

JEHOVAH REQUIRES THAT WE CHERISH TRUE LOYALTY (2 min.)

Loyalty is a wonderful quality when it is in harmony with the will of God; true loyalty is an aspect of the new personality that we are required to put on [Read Ephesians 4:23, 24]

Jehovah is the Creator of the new personality, and Jesus Christ reflected his Father's qualities perfectly
(Joh 14:9, 10; w93 3/1 18 ¶17)

How can we make new our dominant mental attitude and show that we cherish true loyalty? (Mic 6:8)

HOW THE QUALITY OF TRUE LOYALTY IS DEVELOPED (2 min.)

For many people, their loyalties are determined by their place of birth, their nationality, their blood ties, and the religion into which they were born

True loyalty is not something we are born with; it must be developed within us individually through prayerful study of the Scriptures, heartfelt godly devotion, and our efforts to imitate Jesus' example of loving obedience to Jehovah God (1Co 11:1; 1Jo 5:3)

LOYALTY TO JEHOVAH MUST COME FIRST IN OUR LIFE (13 min.)

Pride of race, nationality, tribe, and social standing are extremely important to many people, but not to God (Pr 8:13)

Our loyal love for Jehovah should move us to root out any pharisaical feelings of superiority or racial prejudice that we may have
(Lu 18:11; Php 2:3; 1Jo 3:10)

Loyalty to family should never be greater than loyalty to Jehovah; the sons of Korah did not try to justify their father's disloyalty or follow him (Nu 16:32, 33; 26:10, 11)

Loyalty to Jehovah can be tested when a friend gets involved in wrongdoing that needs to be brought to the attention of the elders

Never allow misguided loyalty to a friend to overshadow your loyalty to Jehovah

Approach that friend, and urge him to report the matter to his parents or to the elders; tell him that if he does not do so within a reasonable period of time, you will (Pr 27:5; w91 6/15 21)

The Scriptures show that loyal love—warm personal attachment or deep affection—is essential for a happy marriage

Love for Jehovah should never be separated from the personal attachment that a couple have for each other (Mt 22:37)

Sadly, some marriage mates allow themselves to become emotionally distant from each other, and this can lead to betrayal and adultery (w12 4/15 11 ¶12-13)

Some may excuse their immoral course by calling it a midlife crisis; in reality, it is disloyalty to God and to one's mate, treachery, a midlife betrayal! (Mal 2:13, 14; w07 12/15 26 ¶7)

Besides, loyal ones will attain to everlasting life, which has no midway point, no middle age

Many people have succumbed to prideful ambition and disloyalty, characteristics that are not part of the new personality
(Pr 16:18; Col 3:10)

Ahithophel, a wise confidant of King David, became disloyal as a result of prideful ambition (w05 5/15 18 ¶7)

He serves as a warning example that intellectual ability, close association with prominent ones, and years in the truth do not immunize us against succumbing to pride and rebellion

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TRUE LOYALTY TO JEHOVAH IS STEADFAST TO THE END (2 min.)

Whatever test we might experience, the strength to display loyalty stems from our having a strong personal relationship with Jehovah
Meaningful prayer and diligent personal study are essential if we are to enjoy such a relationship (1Ti 2:8)

Make it your determination to keep your loyalty to Jehovah above all other loyalties (Pr 3:5, 6)

Jesus demonstrated the meaning of true loyalty by remaining steadfast in his attachment to Jehovah and by sticking to his purpose in life to its full accomplishment (Joh 19:30)

May we be determined to do the same!

TO BE COVERED IN 19 MINUTES

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