

Here are a few texts that will remind us of God's view of loyalty and commitment.

(1 Cor. 15:58, ICB) Stand strong. Do not let anything change you.

(Esther 4:16, ICB) I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I die, I die.

(Matt. 24:13, ICB) But the person who continues to be strong until the end will be saved.

(Mark 10:9, ICB) God has joined the two people together. So no one should separate them.

(Ps. 145:13, ICB) The Lord will keep his promises.

(Prov 17:9 NIV) He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

(Prov 17:17 NIV) A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

(Prov 18:24 NIV) There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

(John 15:13 NIV) Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

Other terms for loyalty and commitment:

Love, dedication, allegiance, friendship, devotion, fidelity, faithfulness, courage.

One Last Thought. . . .

In the history of prophets and apostles, are many noble examples of loyalty to God. Christ's witnesses have endured imprisonment, torture, and death itself, rather than break God's commands. The record left by Peter and John is as heroic as any in the gospel dispensation. As they stood for the second time before the men who seemed bent on their destruction, no fear or hesitation could be discerned in their words or attitude. And when the high priest said, "Did we not straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood upon us," Peter answered, "We ought to obey God rather than men." {Ellen G. White, Acts of the Apostles, pp.81-82, p. 321}



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Christian Values Your Kid Should Know



Loyalty and Commitment¹

¹ Based on the book "10 Christian Values Every Kid Should Know," by Dr. Donna Habenicht. Review & Herald

I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. Psalms 16:8 NKJV

Loyalty is the ultimate expression of our love for each other and for God. Loyalty must be experienced in order to be understood.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Be sure your child feels loved by his or her family.

2. Model and explain your own loyalty and commitment.

3. Build loyalty to your family. Emphasize that we are a family team, we work together for the good of all the family members. We support each other. We go to games and recitals to show our support and love. If a team member has an emergency, everyone gets off the bench to help. Develop family traditions, tell stories about your extended family, and the traditions in your home as you were growing up. Don't ask children to take sides in family disputes, particularly in divorce.

4. Provide opportunities for your child to experience loyalty and commitment.

Taking care of a pet is a serious commitment that develops loyalty. A dog will respond with intense loyalty to her owner. Your child will get to feel both sides of the loyalty issue.

6. Provide opportunities to think about friendships and loyalties.

- Help your children learn how to choose friends.

- Teach your children to be very cautious about friendships with people with serious character flaws.

- Emphasize that loyalty to God comes before all other loyalties. Loyalty to principles comes before loyalty to someone who is doing something wrong.

- Emphasize that loyalty is selfish.

6. Choose family commitments carefully.

Be careful not to make commitments you cannot keep, as a family and as individuals.

7. Help your children understand what loyalty to God means.

- Loyalty to God includes obedience to His commandments.

- Loyalty to God also includes using our talents to honor Him.

- Giving God His part of our money is also a test of our loyalty to Him.

8. Help your children sort out conflicting loyalties. Situations with conflicting loyalties can be very difficult. Divorce. Friends. Right and wrong.

9. Help your children understand that true loyalty must be earned.

10. Help your children cultivate positive self-respect and identity.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Family Spirit Day: Plan an exciting activity to do together. Make up something crazy for every family member to wear – like a decorated baseball cap.

Church Search: Work together as a family to learn about your church. Find out about its history, traditions, and beliefs. Find out about early pioneers of the church.

City Search: Work together as a family to learn about your city, town, county, or state.



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