

Topics of the Bible ~ Loyalty ~ Discussion Questions

In the dictionary, the word *loyal* means unswerving in allegiance as 1) faithful allegiance to one's sovereign or government, 2) faithful to a private person to whom fidelity is due, 3) faithful to a cause, ideal or custom. Synonyms are: faithful, allegiance, devotion, dedication, constant, unwavering, steady, unflinching.

1. What's the difference between being loyal to a local sports team, say the Giants or Devils, and being loyal to the coach of a team for which you play? (Hint: notice that the definition above implies that what you are loyal to should be deserving of your loyalty.)

2. Think of the people, organizations, teams, causes, etc. to which you are (or have been) loyal. Which ones are deserving of your loyalty? Which ones are not?

3. What does the Bible have to say about loyalty and being loyal?

A. Loyalty is unwavering in good times and bad. (Proverbs 17:17)

B. Loyalty is what you do, not what you say. (Matthew 26:33-35 and 26:69-75)

C. Loyalty is in your heart. It is willing and not reluctant. (Psalm 78:8)

D. Loyalty can be demanding. (Exodus 17:8-13)

E. Loyalty may involve sacrifice. (2 Chronicles 11:13-16)

F. Loyalty to the Lord can be difficult but it will be rewarded. (Psalm 84:10-11)

When this psalm says "those whose walk is blameless" it refers to Genesis 17:1 when the Lord appeared to Abraham and said to him "walk with me and be blameless" meaning that Abraham would receive the Lord's promises if he was faithful and obedient.

G. Disloyalty will be punished. Because Edom deserted Israel in its time of need, "I will bring you plummeting down," said the Lord. (Obadiah 4, 15, 18, also see Numbers 32:11, Deuteronomy 6:13-15)

4. What did Jesus say about loyalty to God? (Matthew 10:37-39)

5. Two of Jesus' disciples were disloyal to him in the last days, but with quite different outcomes. Who were they? Why were the outcomes so different? (Matthew 26:69-75, 27:3-10)

6. How is loyalty different from friendship? How is it the same as friendship? (There's a real difference. Look up both words in the dictionary.)

7. How do you feel when a friend shows that he is loyal or faithful to you?

Topics of the Bible ~ Loyalty ~ Questions for Small Groups

1. How are you at being a loyal and faithful friend? When do you have issues or problems being loyal? (Think of Peter or Judas.)
2. Do you think the penalty for disloyalty to the Lord described in these verses should still be in effect today? (Deuteronomy 13:6-10) Can you think of any scripture in the New Testament that says this penalty has been abolished?
3. What does the Bible say about being loyal to:
 - A. Your military commander (Joshua 1:16-17)
 - B. A friend (1 Samuel 20:1-4)
 - C. Political leaders (Ezra 7:26, Ecclesiastes 8:2, Romans 13:1, Titus 3:1)
 - D. Your nation (Deuteronomy 7:1-6)
4. If you disagree with the policies or views of your political leaders (President, Governor, Mayor) do you still have to be loyal to them? What should you do when loyalty to authority conflicts with loyalty to God? Which takes precedence?
5. Think of groups whose members are intensely loyal: SEALs, Marines, Gangs (Crips, Bloods, MS-13), PETA, Earth Liberation Front, al-Qaeda, IRA, Islamic Jihad, Lashkar-e-Toiba, etc. What do these groups have in common? What do you like about them? What do you dislike? Is the Lord looking for this kind of loyalty from us? Why or why not?
6. How is being loyal to a cause or idea different from being loyal to a person or organization? Do you think loyalty to God is more like being loyal to a cause or to a person?