

No. 48 Meeting the Test of Christian Loyalty

PLEASE NOTE: If you wish, you may use the artwork provided to illustrate points where indicated

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN LOYALTY? (4 min.)

Loyalty is widely regarded as a desirable quality, but it can be misdirected or divided

What is Christian loyalty, and how should it be shown?

Christian loyalty is an essential part of “the new personality” **[Read Ephesians 4:23, 24]**

We imitate the loyalty of Jehovah and Jesus (Joh 13:1; Eph 5:1; Re 15:4; w13 6/15 17 ¶3; cl 282 ¶7-8)

We can strengthen our loyalty by cultivating unselfish love for God and for others

CHRISTIAN LOYALTY WILL BE TESTED (4 min.)

Satan claims that humans serve God for selfish reasons and will not remain loyal when tested (Job 1:9-11; 2:4, 5) [Image 1]

Satan tested Jesus’ loyalty, and he will test ours (Mt 4:1-10; Lu 22:31) [Image 2]

At times, Satan uses direct tests, such as opposition or persecution (Lu 21:12; 2Ti 3:12)

He often uses subtle snares and tries to exploit our weaknesses (Eph 6:11, 12)

BE LOYAL TO JEHOVAH (8 min.)

Loyalty to Jehovah must come first, before any other loyalties in our lives (Re 4:11)

We respect and obey secular authorities, but we refuse to obey any command that conflicts with God’s law (Ac 5:29; Ro 13:1)

We show loyalty to Jehovah by willingly obeying him **[Read Deuteronomy 10:12, 13]**

We obey Jehovah even in private matters and when unseen by other humans (w07 6/15 29 ¶13)

Satan asserts that Jehovah’s laws are too restrictive or even harmful (Ge 3:1-6)

To remain loyal, we must be convinced that Jehovah’s ways are best (Isa 48:17; w09 10/1 10)

We courageously speak about Jehovah even when it is difficult to do so (Isa 43:10; 2Ti 4:2)

BE LOYAL TO YOUR FAMILY (6 min.)

Today, many put self-interest ahead of their family (2Ti 3:1-4)

By being loyal to one another, family members show loyalty to God (Eph 3:14, 15)

Jehovah wants marriage mates to be loyal to each other even when difficulties arise (Mt 19:5, 6; w17.06 31 ¶17-18)

Loyal marriage mates shun sexual immorality and are loyal even in thought (Pr 4:23; Mt 5:28)

Parents, show loyalty to your children by lovingly training them (Ps 127:3; Eph 6:4)

Children, show loyalty to your parents by honoring and obeying them (Eph 6:1, 2)

BE LOYAL TO FELLOW CHRISTIANS (6 min.)

Our love for fellow Christians moves us to be loyal to them at all times

We are patient and forgiving, quick to overlook their imperfections (1Co 13:5)

We do not gossip or spread rumors about them (1Co 13:6, 7)

If we are persecuted, we would never betray our fellow believers (Pr 18:24; w10 8/15 24 ¶17)

We loyally support those appointed to take the lead in the congregation (Mt 24:45-47; Heb 13:17)

When the Israelites murmured and rebelled against Moses, Jehovah said that they were actually rebelling against Him (Nu 14:26, 27)

JEHOVAH WILL REWARD LOYAL ONES (2 min.)

If we are loyal to Jehovah, he will always “act in loyalty” with us **[Read Psalm 18:25]**

He will support us now through any test of loyalty and in the future reward us with everlasting life

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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