

# Bible Studies

## Loyalty

*O LORD, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. 1 Chronicles 29:18  
their hearts were not loyal to him, they were not faithful to his covenant. Psalms 78:37*

Loyal is not a frequently used word in Scripture. The NIV uses it to translate the word נָחוּן, (Na-Hon) which means *to be right with*. Another word which contains the idea of loyalty is נֶאֱמָן, (Na-Ah-Mean), this is usually translated, as it is above, Faithful.

### **What is the difference between Faithfulness and Loyalty?**

This is a hard one, the first word used to describe faithful in my dictionary is loyal, and the first word to describe loyal is faithful. Loyalty includes the idea of devotion. You tend to be faithful in doing something, but loyal to someone or something. You may vote for a party loyal but not be faithful to its beliefs.

The word נֶאֱמָן, come from family of verbs with the root meaning to believe. It is the same root that we get Amen (אָמֵן) from. To be loyal (נֶאֱמָן) is the passive form of the verb (מֵאֱמָן) Ma-Ah-Mean to believe. Another word (אֱמֻנָה) means faithfulness.

### **What link do you think there is between loyalty and belief?**

### **What is Loyalty?**

### **If you are loyal to something or someone how will you act?**

Loyalty implies ownership. Ownership is when you take something and treat it as belonging to you. If you are loyal to a sports team, then it is because you identify yourself with them. You are likely to talk about *us* rather than *they*. No one ever heard a crowd of supporters shouting “*They won the cup*”.

*We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God.” Joshua 24:18*

*“As for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken him. 2 Chronicles 13:10*

*For this God is our God for ever and ever; Psalms 48:14*

*For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Psalms 95:7*

*In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” Isaiah 25:9*

*They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The LORD is our God.’” Zechariah 13:9*

### **What kind of ownership is shown in these verse?**

### **What things result from this ownership**

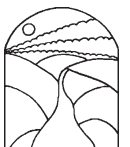
### **Do you think ownership is important?**

If you cannot see God as your God, Church as your Church, Youth group as your Youth group etc.

### **What is likely to be result?**

### **If someone is loyal, what else will they be?**

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## Who should we be loyal to?



## In what way should we express our loyalty to each of these?

People (young) show amazing loyalty to Musicians, movie stars etc.

### Why do you think this is?

Sometimes we have divided loyalties, we know we must be loyal but who to?

### Can you place the list of people/things we should be loyal to in order?

I am quite mistrusting of these orders, they tend to be artificial. In truth, circumstances change the order. They also tend to create false conflicts. Eg 'I must always put God before family'. Often putting family first, is putting God first. **1 Timothy 5:8**. The conflict is artificial.

Sometimes it is very important to know who has priority demands on our loyalty and who doesn't.

### In what kind of a relationship does Loyalty arise?

### In what kind of a relationship is loyalty not going to arise?

*Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.*  
*Philippians 4:3*

### What kind of effect do you think having loyal people around had on Paul?

It is one of my basic philosophies that you always root for the home team.

### If we are loyal to someone and they fail us what should our response be?

Of course it depends on the circumstances, When a position is adopted that is contrary to God's word, loyalties will have to be broken. At other times loyalty has to remain, even against disagreements. Would you give up on your children because they behaved badly? Does God give up on you when you do the same?

An American writer made the statement; "*My country, right or wrong*" We could adapt it, for the sack of argument, would you agree with;

### My Children, right or wrong?

### My Church, right or wrong?

The question is where do you draw the line?

### Can you explain King David's strange behaviour in this passage?

### Read 1 Samuel 24v1-7

*An offended brother is more unyielding than a fortified city, and disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel. Proverbs 18:19*

### How highly do you think God considers loyalty

### Do you think people have the right to expect loyalty?

### Who do think you should expect loyalty from?