Loyalty

Intro: The Bible (KJV) does not contain either the word loyal or loyalty. However, the Bible is filled with the principle. Allegiance is the idea of an obligation owed, simply obedience and duty; while loyalty denotes the feeling of sentiment (often enthusiastic) accompanying a sense of allegiance.

I. Two Examples.
   A. The Psalmist appeals for loyalty to Jerusalem, the place God has placed His name; Psa. 137:5-6 “5 If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. 6 If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.”
   B. Paul affirms His loyalty to Christ; Acts 21:13 “13 Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

II. One Should Be Loyal To His Convictions.
   A. One should contend for what he thinks is right; Jude 3 “3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”
   B. Doctrinally.
      1. The one church.
         a. Eph. 4:4 “4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling:”
         b. Eph. 1:22-23 “22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
         c. That one church belonging to Christ.
            (1) Mat. 16:18 “18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
            (2) Thus, he is the head and no earthly headquarters since He is in heaven; Eph. 1:22-23 “22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
      2. The organization of that one church.
         a. Elders overseeing the work; 1 Pet. 5:2 “2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;”
         b. Deacons working in the areas assigned to them by the elders.
      3. The worship of that one church.
         a. Singing; Eph. 5:19 “19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”
         b. Lord’s Supper upon each first day of the week; Acts 20:7 “7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”
         c. Praying to the Father through Christ; Acts 2:42 “42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
         d. Preaching God’s Word; Acts 20:7 “7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”
         e. Freewill Contribution; 1 Cor. 16:1-2 “1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2 Upon the first day of the week let
every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”

4. The plan of salvation into that one church.
   a. Upon hearing the Word, believe;
      (1) Rom. 10:17 “17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
      (2) John 8:24 “24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”
   b. Repentance from sins; Acts 17:30 “30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.”
   c. Confess your faith in Jesus as God’s Son; Rom. 10:10 “10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
   d. Baptized in water for the remission of your sins; Acts 2:38 “38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

5. The virgin birth of Christ.
   a. Isa. 7:14 “14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”
   b. Luke 1:30-35 “30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. 34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”

6. That Christ is coming back in judgment upon the world, not to set up or establish a kingdom.

C. Morally.
   1. Fornication, Adultery, Homosexuality, Dancing, etc.; Gal. 5:19 “19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,”
   2. Immodest apparel; 1 Tim. 2:9-10 “9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; 10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.”
   3. Impure speech, lying, etc.; Eph. 4:25, 31 “25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another…. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:”
   4. Gambling, drinking alcoholic beverages, etc.
   5. Should be like:
      a. Joseph; Gen. 39:7-9, 12 “7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master’s wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. 8 But he refused, and said unto his master’s wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; 9 There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?... 12 And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.”
      b. Daniel; Dan. 1:8 “8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”
III. ONE SHOULD BE LOYAL TO OTHERS.

A. Loyalty to friends.
   1. Pro. 17:17 “17 A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”
   2. Pro. 18:24 “24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”
   3. Pro. 27:10 “10 Thine own friend, and thy father’s friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother’s house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off.”
   4. False witnessing condemned.
      a. Pro. 25:18 “18 A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.”
      b. Eph. 4:25, 31 “25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another…. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:”
   5. Example of David and Jonathan; 1 Sam. 19:4-5 “4 And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good: 5 For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?”

B. Loyalty to parents.
   1. Eph. 6:1-3 “1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”
   2. 2 Tim. 3:1-2 “1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,”
   3. Deu. 21:18-21 “18 If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: 19 Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; 20 And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard. 21 And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.”
   4. However, Mat. 10:37 “37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”

C. This does not mean endorsing one in their wrong.

IV. ONE’S CHIEF LOYALTY SHOULD BE IN CHRIST.

A. Loyalty to His teachings (His Word).
   1. Cannot change His teachings.
      a. Mat. 15:9 “9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”
      b. Gal. 1:6-9 “6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”
c. 2 John 9 “9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”

d. Rev. 22:18-19 “18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

2. Will live according to His teachings.
   a. Mat. 7:21, 24 “21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven…. 24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock;”
   b. Jam. 1:22-25 “22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

3. Will defend His teachings.
   a. Jude 3 “3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”
   b. Phi. 1:27 “27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;”
   c. 1 Tim. 1:18 “18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;”
   d. Will not belittle any of His teachings (i.e. baptism, Lord’s Supper, etc.)

B. Loyalty to His body, the church.
1. Opposed to denominationalism
   a. Christ did not establish any denomination.
   b. He established His one church.
      (1) Eph. 4:4 “4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;”
      (2) Eph. 1:22-23 “22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
   c. Christ desired unity and condemned division.
      (1) John 17:20-21 “20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”
      (2) 1 Cor. 1:10 “10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

2. One cannot believe the church is simply an afterthought.
   a. Eph. 3:9-11 “9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: 10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, 11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:”
b. Acts 20:28 “28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

3. Cannot be loyal to the church and willfully absent himself from worship.

4. Loyalty requires right living.
   a. 2 Cor. 3:2-3 “2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: 3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.”
   b. Tit. 2:11-12 “11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”

Conclusion: Are you loyal to Christ and His Word? To be loyal, you must obey Him.