



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday –September 28, 2025

To Know Christ...

The fruit of the Spirit is ... Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, and the next characteristic of this spiritual fruit is Faithfulness. (Galatians 5:22) If we display a life of Faithfulness, it reveals how the Spirit is driving our "Loyalty" of trusting God. When we describe our mate as being faithful (even beyond the intimate side), we are also saying they are Loyal to their vow. Our Faithfulness to a spiritual mindset (even motives) unveils our loyalty to Jesus. Jesus was loyal to His Father at all costs. He would defend His righteous Father no matter who would ask the next twisted question. Jesus was not "loyal" to put Himself first; He was loyal to put His Father first.

Loyalty is not easily found these days. Is there Faithfulness in marriage? We ought to lovingly defend our mate when he (or she) has done what is patient, good, or kind, even if others are unaware while making accusations. How many times do married couples scoff while talking about their "beloved" wife (or husband) while conveying a one-sided story? Once is too often! Why not walk by the Spirit and be forgiving as well as loyal? Would we speak of Jesus (the husband of the church) in the same way, when we do not get the outcome "we" wanted? ... and yet sometimes people do. (Insert sad sigh here.) Can we be genuinely loyal to what is spiritually good? Especially if loyalty to God comes at the price of losing friends, family, & influence among souls desperately needing an example of Jesus. Do we realize the losses among the unforgiven are worth the persecutions that accompany Eternal Life? Jesus did. We should consider that the outcome of a Christ-like loyalty to God invites the salvation of others. It brought us face-to-face with the gentle and faithful Savior, like a soaking rain on dry ground.

What is the outcome when faithfulness [loyalty] is added to goodness? In Matthew 25, Jesus shares the story of a man who entrusted his possessions to three servants. One of them was lazy and wicked. However, the other two were good and faithful to their Master. So good and beneficial, in fact, that they doubled what was entrusted to them. Their Master shared a heartfelt message with them both, **"Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few**

things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” (v21, v23) In striving by faithfulness to do good, the outcome was JOY! Ever wonder why joy alludes us? Why are some married folks so unhappy? When the faithfulness of loyalty leaves, joy evaporates from the relationship simultaneously! (What if we lose our loyalty to Christ? Same outcome!) Have we considered doing what is beneficial for our mate over what is merely beneficial for ourselves? Faithfulness to the Lord in marriage means exemplifying love; loyalty produces the Fruit of the Spirit in abundance. What would you grade your faithfulness? What needs to improve and mature?

- Carey Terry