

# Scripture

**John 15:12-13**

**Look for our event!**



# Loyalty

“Character Counts” - Week Four

1/31/2021

## *I Won't Leave*

- i. What is loyalty?**
- ii. What should we be loyal to?**
- iii. What are we loyal to?**

**Loyalty is the aspect of love that causes us to say, “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends” especially at great personal cost.**

# **I. The Loyalty Given**

## **a. God Finds Us Betrayed**

“on the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. No eye pitied you, to do any of these things to you out of compassion for you, but you were cast out on the open field, for you were abhorred, on the day that you were born.”

**—Ezekiel 16:3–5 ESV**

# **I. The Loyalty Given**

## **b. God Commits to Loyal Love**

“And when I passed by you and saw you wallowing in your blood, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ I made you flourish like a plant of the field. And you grew up and became tall and arrived at full adornment.”

**—Ezekiel 16:6–7 ESV**

“When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord GOD, and you became mine. Then I bathed you with water and washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil. I clothed you also with embroidered cloth and shod you with fine leather. I wrapped you in fine linen and covered you with silk. And I adorned you with ornaments and put bracelets on

# **I. The Loyalty Given**

## **c. We Leave**

## **d. God Stays**

“For thus says the Lord GOD: I will deal with you as you have done, you who have despised the oath in breaking the covenant, yet I will remember my covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish for you an everlasting covenant.”

—**Ezekiel 16:59–60 ESV**

“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” —**Matthew 28:16–20 ESV**



## II. The Loyalty Required

### a. Our Loyalty to God

Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away. Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.” —**Hosea 6:4–6 ESV**

## **II. The Loyalty Required**

### **a. Our Loyalty to God**

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”

**—Luke 14:25–27 ESV**

## **II. The Loyalty Required**

### **b. Our God-like Loyalty to God's People**

#### **i. The Local Church**

Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. —**1 John 2:9**

## **II. The Loyalty Required**

### **b. Our God-like Loyalty to God's People**

#### **i. The Local Church**

But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. — **1 John 2:11**

## **II. The Loyalty Required**

### **b. Our God-like Loyalty to God's People**

#### **i. The Local Church**

Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. — **1 John 3:15**

## **II. The Loyalty Required**

### **b. Our God-like Loyalty to God's People**

#### **i. The Local Church**

If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.” — **1 John 4:20**

## **II. The Loyalty Required**

### **b. Our God-like Loyalty to God's People**

#### **ii. The Whole Church**

### **c. Our God-like loyalty to God's Causes**

The Jews are extremely loyal toward one another, and always ready to show compassion, but toward every other people they feel only hate and enmity. ~ **Tactitus**