

## LESSON 7



## LAWS OF LOYALTY AND RESPONSIBILITY

*Scripture Texts: Romans 13:8-10; Philippians 2:1-5*

There are certain rules which we must follow if we are to be loyal. In our Scripture lesson we find the secret of true loyalty. It is love—love for others more than for ourselves. If we truly love someone, it is not very hard for us to do things for that person. You do not mind giving up some of your most treasured possessions to your best friend. The reason is because you want to see that person happy. It makes you happy even if you have to give up some pleasure of your own. Mother and Father have given up lots for you, not because they like to go without, but because they love you. If we want to be more loyal, let us learn to have more love for others.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself."*

*Luke 10:27*

### Loyalty to Home

A few years ago you came into the world a tiny, helpless baby. Kind, loving hands received you gladly and took care of you. You were fed and tended with the most watchful care. You were given clothes, a place to sleep, a place to play, and everything that could be done to make you happy and well was done. You became ill at various times, and someone walked the floor with you or worked over you, even though that someone was very worn and tired from a hard day's work. You grew older and started to school. Someone worked long and hard to furnish you with the things you needed that you might get your education. All through your life, Father and Mother have given their very best to you. Many times they have sacrificed their own desires that you might be made happy. About all that you have been able to give to them in return is your sincere love and loyalty. How well have you done this? This test will help you to check yourself:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I have been kind and courteous to Mother and Father.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I have not said unkind things about my family to anyone outside my home.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ I have tried to do my part in keeping my home a happy place in which to live.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ I have been loyal to the ideals and rules of my home.

### Loyalty to School

Joe was a member of the basketball team. The team had strict training rules, which he had been very careful to obey. One evening he was invited to a party that lasted over two hours past the training bedtime. Joe did not want to break the rules, but he decided that to be polite to his hostess it was necessary. The coach heard about it and would not let Joe play the next game. His team lost.

1. Was Joe loyal to his team?
2. Was it worth it?
3. Was it necessary?

Mary and some of her friends went out on a hike. They were to write a story of their trip for an assignment in English. After Mary had written her story, Susan asked if she might borrow it so that she could get an idea as to how she should write hers. Instead of writing in her own style, she copied Mary's story. When the teacher received both copies, she accused Mary of cheating. Susan did not tell the truth. Mary said nothing but wrote another story. When someone asked her about it she said, "I must be loyal to Susan."

1. Should Mary help her friend by letting her get by with cheating? Why?
2. Should you be loyal to your friends when it means doing wrong?
3. What do we mean by being loyal?
4. Was this loyalty?

### **Loyalty to Friends**

Outside the members of your home are many people whom you call friends. They are those with whom you like to be. You enjoy their company above others. When you are with them, you are happy, and when they are gone you miss them. They would do many things for you, and you would be glad to do much for them. If every friend were taken away from you, how much of your happiness would go with them?

Check the following list as you think of the loyalty you owe to your friends:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I should keep my promises to my friends.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I should tell others the faults of my friends.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ I should stand by my friend when he is in trouble or in need.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ I should keep the secrets that my friend trusts with me.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ I should never tell on my friends, even if they have done things that harm others.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ I should be completely honest with my friends.

### **Loyalty to the Church**

There is no institution that can mean more to us throughout our lives if we will give it our loyalty. There we are with people who like the same things we do. We find help in our times of discouragement and sorrow. We find opportunities to make other lives happier and better. Can you imagine what the world would be without the Church of God? If the church is worth all this to us, then we owe something to it. How can we express our loyalty to the church?

Our real test of loyalty is the test of responsibility. If you are asked to do some task for your family, your school, or your church, what do you do? Some people think that such a task is not very important, and they pay very little attention to it unless it is something they particularly want to do. Could it be said about you, "Oh, it is useless to ask him to do anything. He never does anything well. You cannot depend upon him"? You may not have thought of it as being disloyal, but is it not? Another person always complains about being asked to spend a little time or do a little work for someone else. It is so hard to get him to do things that no one ever asks him to help. Is he being loyal? Compare these persons with the one who is always willing to do what needs to be done. If you ask that person to do something, you can depend upon its being done well. Who is the more loyal? Who will be the more successful?

**Loyalty to God**

It may sometimes become confusing as to whom we owe the greatest loyalty, for loyalties are often hard to determine. As you discovered in the stories at the beginning of the lesson, there are times when there seems to be no way by which one can be loyal to two conflicting persons. However, there is One to whom we owe our first loyalty. That is God. He calls out the very best that we have and, in return, gives the very best to us. If we are always loyal to Him, there can be no doubt of our choosing the best loyalty to others.

Think of some men in the Bible who were loyal to God although they had to do some hard things. Think of some people whom you know today who have been loyal to God. What were the results of their loyalty?

**JUST A THOUGHT**

**If a joke is doubtful, it's dirty.**