

Loyalty at Work at Work

What if we replaced the question, “Do you love God?” with “Are you loyal to God?” How does that change the dynamics of our relationship? Love is about choosing a relationship with God; loyalty is about persevering in that relationship even in adversity, maybe especially in adversity. Its test is actions taken or not taken, not emotion. It is about persisting in deep relationship with God through the deepest downs as well as the highest highs.

Considering that God is the creator of our world and all that is in it, including the irritable people we work with, that gives us a broad field for being loyal to Him in our daily lives. Loyalty is there when our conduct is in alignment with moral law and contributes to the common good. God loves, and we are loyal when we act to imitate his love for all around us. We are loyal when we see others as persons rather than as objects to be manipulated; when we are alert to their needs and act to satisfy them insofar as we are able. In those actions we are loyal to them and through them to God.

Our own imperfection is probably the biggest obstacle we have to overcome in remaining loyal to God, to keeping our promises to God and to those in our lives. As imperfect beings, we are loyal when we recognize that our acts do have an impact, for good or ill, on others. We are loyal when we accept that we may not be right or may not have acted with perfect appropriateness in any given situation and are open to correction or improvement. Loyalty to God in our interactions with others in our lives does not mean we must submissively accept and act to eliminate all their criticisms. It does mean we must acknowledge the possibility that we have not acted in line with moral law and for the common good.

With that acknowledgment comes the need to engage in learning the moral principles that should guide our conduct. Typically we begin with those that we accept as governing our personal or individual relationship with God. As we grow we expand our application of those principles to our families, our spouses, our employers and fellow employees, and to our local, regional, and national/world communities. We interact, giving and accepting compliments and criticism. When in doubt about the correct path, we refer back to the guidance of love and the conduct of a loyal lover.

God loves us. He also has placed in our lives those around us and placed us into their lives. Loyalty to him can give meaning and direction to our lives, to our interactions. Our daily acts guided by loyalty to God enable us to grow in our humanity and in our spirituality.

LOYALTY — A Faith Based Value at Work

1. What does applying the faith-based value of loyalty in your workplace mean to you? What do you think it would mean to those with whom you work? How does its meaning change for your different workplaces, for example, home or where you volunteer?
2. Why is it important to gain an understanding of loyalty in the workplace and how to apply that understanding?
3. How do/could you apply the concept of loyalty in your workplace(s)?
4. What would happen in your workplace if you took and actively applied the value of faith-based loyalty in your workplace(s)? How would the workplace sound different? Look different? Feel different?
5. What first step are you willing to take this week?