

Loyalty:

Using difficult times to demonstrate my commitment to those I serve

stick together

Loyalty *n.* 1: the quality or state of being faithful to a person or institution to whom fidelity is due. 2: the tie binding a person to that to which he is loyal.

Some think that loyalty is sticking with your friends in any situation, but in reality, loyalty actually points out an error and suggests ways for a person to make corrections. If a wrong persists, a loyal person does not ignore a problem, but addresses it with those in authority. True friends, co-workers, and family members demonstrate loyalty by protecting others from making mistakes they might later regret. Loyalty remains faithful to both truth and friendship.

Families who stick together in hard times experience a deep bonding that makes their relationships stronger than they were before the crisis. Being committed to family through traumas, financial struggles, and personality conflicts builds trust among family members that is not easily broken.

Ultimately, loyalty is rooted in relationships, from a man being loyal to his wife and family, to a sports fan being loyal to his team. Employees also show loyalty to their company and citizens can show loyalty to their country. Loyalty is investing in and strengthening relationships so that each relationship is supported and maintained.

faithful friends keep us going



Loyalty is not measured by the support you lend along smooth roads and at victory parties. Loyalty is proven by the support you proffer when your support is most needed - along difficult and uncertain trails. Stand behind your relationships and increase your support when pressures mount.

Loyalty inspires us. When we speak of loyalty, we often think of patriots who love their country more than their own lives - or long-time family friends who are always there for us. Loyalty is a quality that may be felt from the heart during inspirational moments.

“True patriotism is not manifested in short, frenzied bursts of emotion. It is the tranquil, steady dedication of a lifetime.”

– Adlai

“To be trusted is a greater compliment than to be loved.”

– George MacDonald

“It’s better to be faithful than famous.”

– Theodore Roosevelt

Loyalty vs. Unfaithfulness

Loyalty is faithfulness to relationships “through thick or thin,” regardless of the difficulty.

Loyalty is:

- serving my family and others
- encouraging others in hard times
- not mocking authorities
- pointing out the good in others
- honoring my country

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From the director:

In the last couple of newsletters, I have written about emphasizing good character in yourself and in those around you. In this newsletter, I would like to address one of the more tricky aspects of encouraging good character and that is requiring good character. Particularly in management, it is our responsibility to help those in our employ to exercise good character in their daily decisions. As parents, we may need to correct our children's behavior. A character based correction of behavior deals with the root of a problem, leading to lasting change. Before correction is needed, be sure to build a positive relationship with the person and demonstrate true concern for the person.

Michael Josephson of Character Counts from the Josephson Institute of Ethics states, "What you allow, you encourage." Following are some tips from the Character First! ® Organization. Do not wait, hoping things will get better. As time passes, the offender minimizes the offense in his or her own mind. Don't act out of anger; check your own attitude and tone of voice. If you are dealing with children, remember you can lose the

heart of a child through anger. Deal individually with the offender, public rebuke is humiliating and results in bitterness. Establish personal responsibility - "What did you do?" as opposed to, "What happened?" Ask questions that relate to the character issues such as "Was that truthful?" "Was that wise?" "Was that diligent or responsible behavior?" Try to help the other person establish a change of heart. Restore the relationship with forgiveness and indicate a sincere wish to keep a good relationship between yourself and the offender. Structured consequences may be necessary or there may be natural consequences from the infraction. The severity of the consequences should be structured to match and not exceed the severity of the infraction. Finally, be humble - we all need to improve on our character. Be sure to notice and reward or praise a change in that person's attitude or character as a result of the correction.

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Good character is the key to success!