

## Loyalty (1 Corinthians 1:1-9)

- Loyal/faithful- what drives it? As a Christian, we are tied to Jesus.
- A church is a fellowship. (How strong?) If not very involved, can't really answer that.
- In marriage, trust is necessary.
- Fellowship in a church involves Jesus in the fellowship. (Trust, accountability, dependability, commitment through challenges, etc.)
- We are empowered when we are in fellowship with Christ Jesus. (Can be without too.)
- A local church is from the mind of Jesus, found throughout the scriptures, is empowered by the Holy Spirit, guided by the Word of God. (**So loyalty in Christ involves the church that He adds us to!**)
- From pastors to programs, facilities to events, **it is larger than any of that.**

1. **Loyal to Christ is being accountable**- (When we are saved, we are sanctified, saints.)

1 Corinthians 1:1–3 (ESV)

**1** Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,  
<sup>2</sup>To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

a.) When we are in the will of God/We are called. (Called to serve, called to a local church)

**Purpose and responsibility.**

b.) Note in vs 2- Church of God was only in Corinth? God ordained/Trinity. (Am I reaching too far?) **We see a local group of sanctified with a call to be a saint.**

**2 Corinthians 5:17** (NET)<sup>5:17</sup> So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away—look, what is new has come!

(Sanctified/made righteous/joined to the process of sanctification/serving/added to church.)

See? Called in every place, only possible locally! (In this case Corinth.)

c.) Romans tells us to be transformed by renewing of mind, and in Ephesians built up in a church.

d.) It seems like it wasn't about a place for a funeral, wedding, positions to obtain, business opportunity.

- We are born into a spiritual race, God's people, developed and serve through local churches. (If redundant, it must be understood properly.)
- We can't just all meet and be sure of proper doctrine, proper accountability, or even that we are from an authentic source! (Something true is not born out of falsehood.)

2. **Loyal to Christ is essential for our relationship with God**- (How were we made righteous anyhow? The privilege of sanctification and sainthood!)

**1 Corinthians 1:4–6** (ESV) I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— <sup>6</sup> even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—

- a.) “By the grace of God through Christ Jesus.” (Enriched by His Word and knowledge from it! (Called **by grace, privileged with the Word, and knowledge of operation as a result.**)
- b.) We are given gifts to serve in a church, and it is accompanied with instruction and proper operation.
- c.) Really important- the confirmation of Christ in us! Verse 6.

**John 4:23–24 (NET)**

<sup>4:23</sup> But a time is coming—and now is here—when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such people to be his worshipers. <sup>4:24</sup> God is spirit, and the people who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

**Romans 8:15–16 (NET)**

<sup>8:15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery leading again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, “Abba, Father.” <sup>8:16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness to our spirit that we are God’s children.

- 3. **Loyal to Christ till the day that we go home-** (I think about how Peter must have felt when he denied Christ and then Christ’s eyes locked with his.) **Luke 22:54-62.**

1 Corinthians 1:7–9 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- a.) Not lacking in gifts in the church and propelling us to when we see Jesus!
- b.) “I’ll live for Him then’- is not satisfactory.
- c.) The assurance test.

1 John 2:28–3:3 (ESV)

**Children of God**

<sup>28</sup> And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. <sup>29</sup> If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

**3** See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

2 Peter 1:8–10 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

God is faithful. We are to be faithful. Local church is for us to help us. (Once again- fellowship)

- **Loyalty/faithfulness/accountability through fellowship with Christ-** (Marriage, business, team, troops, friendship, and church.)
- This will become very clear as we look at the Church at Corinth.
- Do you realize God sees all, and we share everything with Him?
- Jesus is faithful to us, are we to Him?

**1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NET)**<sup>6:19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>6:20</sup> For you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body.

- Not- “what I want to do”, but “what I do in partnership with Christ and church body”. (How does this make you feel? OK?)
- Not “do’s and don’ts”, rather it is partnership.
- Called saints, accountable in our relationships, all within the **“fellowship circle”**.