

## MEETING THE TEST OF CHRISTIAN LOYALTY

### *Note to the speaker:*

Alert audience that every day our Christian loyalty is challenged by Satan and his world. We must loyally support Jehovah's organization without murmuring or stumbling and be humble and learn to submit to Jehovah's direction

### **WHY KEEPING CHRISTIAN LOYALTY IS A TEST** (8 min.)

Loyalty involves sticking to God's law in every aspect of our life (Read Ephesians 4:20-24)

A person who learns Christ's way recognizes he must change his whole personality (*w71* 543-4; *it-2* 404; *w86* 7/1 20 ¶14)

This involves developing completely different outlook, which comes from a 'new force actuating our mind'

Results in new personality conforming to God's will

Satan is intent on breaking our loyalty

He has devised various "machinations" to break Christian loyalty (Read Ephesians 6:11, 12) (*w76* 465-6; *w88* 9/1 13, 15-17)

The *Kingdom Interlinear* translates Greek for "machinations" as "crafty acts"

Some of the Devil's crafty acts are frontal attacks: threats, acts of violence, and other scare tactics designed to overwhelm and frighten us

Other crafty acts are more subtle: things that appeal to natural desires and selfish inclinations

Every day Christians face tests to their loyalty

These tests will not always involve big issues; Christian loyalty involves doing "all things thoroughly" (Eph 6:13)

Tests involve applying God's law in our family, maintaining a proper view of his organization, and displaying zeal in talking to others about God's purpose

How can we display loyalty in each of these aspects of our life as Christians?

### **BE LOYAL IN THE FAMILY CIRCLE** (13 min.)

Family is Jehovah's arrangement in the earth (Eph 3:15; *it-1* 807 ¶3; *w62* 352)

Need to abide by Jehovah's counsel on regulating family relationships to be loyal

Corrupt environment puts Christian families under test

Many family structures are in decay (*g91* 9/22 3-5; *g80* 4/22 3-7; *g82* 8/8 3-4)

Skyrocketing delinquency and discontent exist among youths (*w88* 4/15 21; *w89* 10/15 29)

Satan promotes prevailing spirit of independence and selfishness in family

Jehovah requires wife to be in subjection (Read 1 Peter 3:3-6)

Applies even if husband is unbeliever (1Pe 3:1, 2; *bw* 77-9; *w89* 5/15 17)

How far does this subjection go? (*Ac* 5:29; Eph 5:24)

Give examples of how Christian loyalty can be put to the test in a divided household

Young women contemplating marriage should face fact of what they will be entering (*Ro* 7:2)

Jehovah directs that husband should 'honor his wife' (Read 1 Peter 3:7) (*bw* 90-2; *w89* 5/15 14)

Must get to know her physical, emotional, and other limitations (*w89* 5/15 13)

Honoring her involves open and free communication

Consider her wishes in certain matters; make decisions according to Scriptural principles

Good example of parents will influence the children

Wifely subjection serves to encourage children to be obedient (Eph 6:1)

Youths are more inclined to 'honor their parents' when father 'honors his wife' (Eph 6:2)

Parents will have "freeness of speech" to guide children when their example is good (1Ti 3:13)

### **KEEPING LOYAL TO JEHOVAH'S ORGANIZATION** (13 min.)

Jehovah has the right to require loyalty by virtue of his being the Creator, the Supreme King (*Jer* 10:10)

To be loyal to God, one must be loyal to His organization (*w65* 412; *w88* 3/15 18-19)

Scriptures contain numerous examples of persons who demonstrated loyalty to God's arrangement

David, when being pursued by Saul, twice had the opportunity to take Saul's life but refused

It was unthinkable to thrust out his hand against God's anointed one (1Sa 24:1-7; 26:1-12, 23)

When others, stumbling over what Jesus taught, turned away from him, Peter and the other apostles kept loyal (*Joh* 6:66-69)

Though some deviated from the faith, the apostles and most other first-century Christians proved loyal to the Christian congregation (1Ti 1:19, 20; 2Ti 2:16-19)

There are many modern-day examples of individuals who have maintained loyalty to Jehovah and his organization even under difficult circumstances (*w80 8/15 5-10; w80 4/15 6-15; w79 7/15 4-7; yb74 165-9, 182-90; yb89 111-12*)

Be loyal to Jehovah and his organization

Accept from “the faithful and discreet slave” “food at the proper time” (Mt 24:45-47)

Do not stumble over an explanation that may be difficult to understand (Ps 119:165)

Support the decisions and work of the body of elders, recognizing that holy spirit is responsible for their appointment, while recognizing also that they too are imperfect and can make mistakes (Ac 20:28; Heb 13:7, 17; 1Pe 4:8; *w89 9/15 20-5; w74 153 ¶17, 413; w70 213; w64 464-70*)

#### **MAINTAIN LOYALTY IN FULFILLING OUR COMMISSION TO PREACH** (8 min.)

The Christian’s life should be used for God’s will (1Pe 4:1, 2)

God “desires all to attain to repentance” (2Pe 3:9)

Those without truth are considered ‘dead in their trespasses’ (Eph 2:1; 1Pe 4:6)

Preaching is a life-and-death issue

Greatest good we can do for people is make them aware of the good news

Satan tries to distract us from preaching work by “crafty acts”

He appeals to natural desires connected with the old personality (Read 1 Peter 4:3, 4) (*bw 109-11; w90 8/15 17*)

To be zealous in preaching, we must keep a clear picture of actual state of things (Read 1 Peter 4:5, 6)

Time is running out to finish this work (Read 1 Peter 4:7)

#### **HOW TO MEET THE TEST OF CHRISTIAN LOYALTY** (3 min.)

It is now so important to study God’s Word

Must know what God requires of us

Always humbly submit to God’s direction (Read 1 Peter 5:6, 7) (*bw 136-7; w82 9/15 23-5*)

Have faith that Jehovah knows when to bring relief from Satan’s pressures

Be assured that Jehovah cares for you as an individual

Persist in prayers that reflect this attitude

Do not be intimidated by Satan’s maneuvers (Read 1 Peter 5:8)

He cannot overcome those having Jehovah’s protection (Eph 6:10-13)

Jehovah is giving the ‘entire association of brothers’ opportunity individually to prove their loyalty (Read 1 Peter 5:9, 10)

You can look to Jehovah to strengthen you so as to attain present and eternal benefits by meeting this test

Trust in him to strengthen you to meet the test

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read. Source material in parentheses need not be mentioned)