

# LOYALTY – A LOST VIRTUE

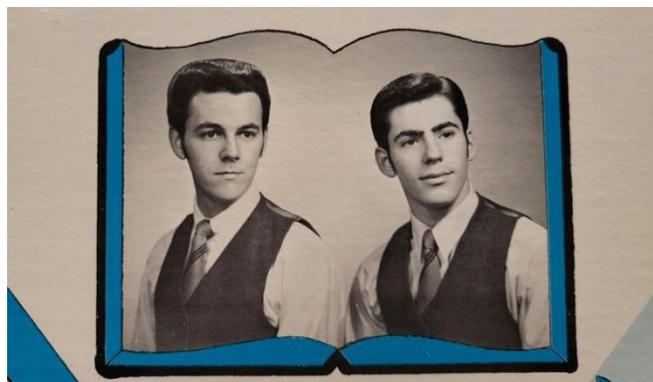
## (An Ordination Service)

ser4032 Real Worship, Pt 3

April 18, 2021 E & L

### I. (HOOK) POINT OF INTRIGUE

A. Last Sunday, we turned “Bomb Sunday” into a “Wow Sunday.” (Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, and Bomb Sunday, but not last weekend.) Following the service, Sheryl and I had the opportunity to catch up with our friends Higher Ground. During our lunch, the conversation turned to the topic of loyalty. Wayne and I have been friends since college.



(show photo)

B. For a number of years now, I have put this sentence under my signature: (show script)

Loyalty • is • a • man's • best • friend. ¶

Josh 1:9, Ruth 1:16, Heb 13:5 ¶



### II. (BOOK) OUR TEXT

- A. Let's look at the three Scripture references under the sentence, "Loyalty is a man's best friend."

***Joshua 1:9***

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go."

"Loyalty is a man's best friend" because no one is more loyal than God.

***Ruth 1:16-17***

<sup>16</sup> But Ruth said:

"Entreat\* me not to leave you,  
Or to turn back from following after you;  
For wherever you go, I will go;  
And wherever you lodge, I will lodge;  
Your people *shall be* my people,  
And your God, my God.

<sup>17</sup> Where you die, I will die,  
And there will I be buried.  
The LORD do so to me, and more also,  
If *anything but* death parts you and me."

\*Urge/wish/implore

"Loyalty is a man's best friend" because no one is more loyal than God.

***Hebrews 13:5-6***

<sup>5</sup> Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I

will never leave you nor forsake you.”<sup>6</sup> So we may boldly say:

“The LORD *is* my helper;

I will not fear.

What can man do to me?”

***NOTE!*** One of the reasons people are disloyal is because they want what doesn’t belong to them; they want what God has assigned to another. **Verse 5** says, “Let your conduct be without covetousness.” It’s true of every phase of life from home to business, from classroom to playground, from the pew to the pulpit—disloyalty is a result of “covetousness.”

### III. (LOOK) LOYALTY—A LOST VIRTUE

**A. If I may, I’d like to speak to those of you who are looked at as the “emerging generation.”**

(Although, no matter what generation you are, particularly in today’s culture, this “word” is for you, too.)

You, the emerging generation, are the ones who will be, and are in some instances, taking ownership of

GCCC. You are the ones carrying the baton in the next leg of the race. ([show photo](#))

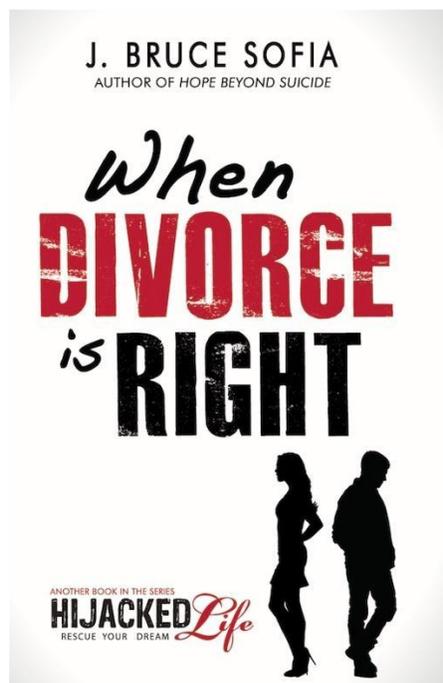


**B. True loyalty is a lost virtue in our society today because it's not instilled in our children or adults, nor is it seen in our culture.**

**Think about the age in which we live!**

1. 50% of all homes are rattled with divorce. Where's loyalty in that picture? Listen, I've written a book on divorce; I'm not judging anyone. ([Show photo, p4](#)) I'm simply saying divorce sends a message; it too often passes a baton—and it's not pretty.

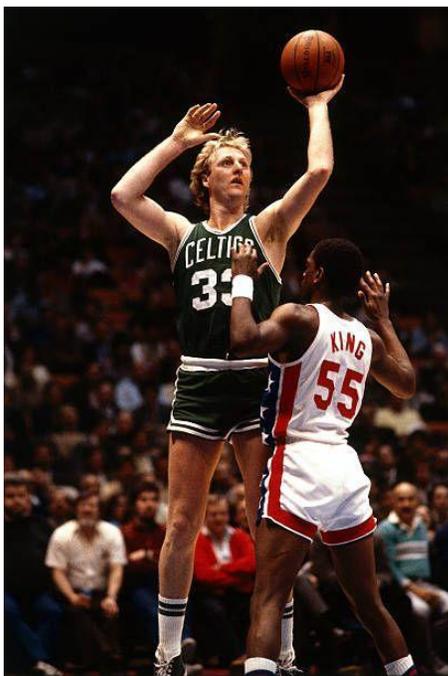
2. The sports world is now about "me," my records, my achievements—it's a world of "franchise players." There is little loyalty to the team from players and little loyalty by team owners to their players.



**ILLUSTRATION:** As a teenager, my favorite NBA team was the Boston Celtics. In those days, players were the team and the team was the players. My two favorite players on the Celtics were Bill Russell in the '60s and Larry Bird in the '70s. ([show photos, p5](#)) They were Celtics for life. Russell was synonymous with the name Boston Celtics; Bird was synonymous with the words Boston Celtics. Loyalty is absent from sports and the world in which we live in far too many aspects of society. Hence, loyalty is a lost virtue.

3. Our political system is about holding on to “power.” Long gone are the days of “we the people.”

4. Big Tech and much of the mainstream media have Marxist mentality. They promise you something as long as you give them your allegiance, but if you disagree you are canceled, blocked, and blackballed.



**NOTE!** To all four generations who attend GCCC—don't buy the lie that tells you you've been given a raw deal, the government “owes you,” ... whatever. Be appreciative. There are more opportunities available to all of us in the USA than any other country in the world. Be loyal to your country and its founding principles. And what you don't like—change. But be loyal! Any other mentality will rob you of America's goodness.

The Bible says, “rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft” (**1 Samuel 15:23**). Don’t go to bed with the devil.

5. (**TOOK**) Lastly, be thankful! How many times have Sheryl and I given a wedding gift, or a gift for a special occasion (and not an insignificant one), and never gotten a thank you?

**RECALL THE TEN LEPERS?** How many were healed? Ten. How many wrote Jesus a thank you note? One. Which one was commended by our Lord and promised perpetual healing? One. **Be a person who takes the time to say, “Thank you!”**

#### **IV. SAYING THANKS**

**A. Today, I, along with the Advisory Board, Lead Team, Creative Arts Ministry, Sunday School, and anywhere else Charlene Fisher has served, would like to say “thank you” for her 21 years of loyal, committed, and faithful service to the Kingdom through GCCC.**

**B. Charlene has served as the Chairman of the Ordination Ministry for over a decade.** She took a committee that was a mess and made it a ministry. Today, the Trustees, Advisory Board, Ordination Ministry, and Lead Team of Prayer Ministries, Inc/GCCC would like to honor Charlene by conferring on her a pastoral ordination.

#### **V. THE ORDAINING OF CHARLENE G. FISHER**

ser4032, *Loyalty—An Ordination Service* (Real Worship, Pt3) 955 words (approximately 7.4 minutes) Does not include the Ordination Ceremony