

## Honour Loyalty and Integrity

Honour, Loyalty and Integrity! Three words that are barely heard these days, and rarely seen in the church or society in general. It may sound like a fairy tale... But once upon a time I grew up with these words. My two eldest brothers were in an outlaw club and they knew what it was like to stand by ya mates! I have recently made friends with a couple of ex outlaws and people who hung around the outlaw scene in the 70's and 80's.

Something funny happened to me last month that got me to thinking that same night, although Jesus knew all along (I believe) that Judas was going to betray him, he treated him no different than the other disciples. I have seen people show loyalty and integrity in ministry to a church they attended or a boss they worked for or volunteered for if it was a volunteer situation. They happened to be treated like dirt and without any honour! Why? The Bible says in

**1Ti 6:1-14** Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed. And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort. If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

When you take all of this scripture into it's context you will see that servants are to honour their masters, and masters to treat their servants right, if not what happens? A different doctrine begins to be taught and leads to destruction and greed. My friends that I have met have frequently said to me, "I was never even treated like this in the outlaw scene why does the church or so called Christians treat me this way"? It discourages them from their walk with God and the ones that mistreated them go on living life as if nothing happened and not even realising that they lack in Integrity, Loyalty and Honour. The Bible says to give Honour where Honour is due in **Rom 13v7**.

The thing that happened to me at the time, I went to fellowship with a friend, and all I got was a cold shoulder. I did not know why and I dwelt upon it most of the evening, wondering why and what had happened. My friend had become cold and hard, then I realised by a statement he made that he had been hurt by someone in authority in the church who he had been loyal to for a long time, many things have been said against me as well and people had "bagged" me before and still do from what I hear, but like I say to others so what? Get over it! Many times we will dwell upon a person hurting us and it will begin to cause us to fall away from God.

Again and again we see it all around us. The Word tells us this from the message Bible **Rom 12:6-19** let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't. If you preach, just preach God's Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don't take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don't get bossy; if you're put in charge, don't manipulate; if you're called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face. Love from the centre of who you are; don't fake it. **Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good.** Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle. Don't burn out; keep yourselves fuelled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality. Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; **don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.** Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. **"I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."**

Sometimes we may be on the receiving end of a misjustice but have you ever thought that maybe you or I have dealt another a misjustice as well? Has your life lacked in Integrity or loyalty to another at some stage or another? I know mine has, and I have also been on the receiving end as well, but one thing in the above verse tells us that God is the judge, he will take care of things, and I think we need to sit back and realise that yes, God is in control. People may hurt us, defame us, accuse us, and make us look bad, but who cares, why am I here? To do God's bidding, his work that he has called me to do and to do it with Honour and Integrity!

Many times over also we will take the honour of doing a good thing where we really need to **give God all the honour**. I have seen many become like tyrants when they become involved with money in the church, this includes ministries and Christians in general. I used to have some good friends who were Christians but once they become "*The Big Time*" in ministry they no longer had time for me, sad as it is, it is a fact. A man said to me once the most important person in a church is the newest person who just walked through the door, the least important is the one held in high esteem in the building. That newest person that just walked through the door may be someone God has brought for you to minister to, but do you have the integrity, the honour to do that for God? Do I? We need to stand up and be an example, other may be a bad example but who is going to set a good example if we don't? Go minister to that person even if it is just a friendly hello, you may just stop someone from killing themselves by approaching them.

So many times we miss what God has for us, because we get caught up in other things, and we no longer have integrity in our Christian walk. Go and read the verse of **Luke 10v29-37** and find out what a true Christian is, then read **Galatians 6v9-10**. Then you go and Live this life, I will also remind myself of it and live it as well, our rewards are to come from God, not man, so don't look to man for your rewards but unto God who is a rewarder of all who seek him **Hebrews 11v6**.