

Lindon

CHARACTER

Connection



Loyalty

MAY 2012

Loyalty: "Being committed and worthy of trust." Loyalty is "the state or quality of being loyal; faithfulness to commitments or obligations". It "connotes sentiment and devotion which one holds for one's country, creed, family, friend etc..."

Loyalty Stands for Something!

There comes a time in life when we are challenged to stand up and be counted.

As children, we learn many things from our parents, our teachers and our friends. Those are the things in life that will determine how we act and behave when faced with difficult choices.

It has been said that the toughest decisions we make are those that are made when no one is around.

Loyalty is described as "being committed and worthy of trust." It is a description of not only who we are, but what we are. Our actions tell others a lot about us; where we came from and where we are going in this life.

Today I am in Kabul, Afghanistan. Many people would wonder why I chose to leave my family and come to this land that is in such chaos. Sometimes I wonder myself why I made this choice, not just for me, but also for my family.

Many of the people I work with every day have come to this land because they are in the military and this is where our country sent them.

They are demonstrating a loyalty to their nation, their families and their military by acts of courage and service. No greater loyalty can be expected of those in the military than those who are willing to sacrifice and give their all for a cause.

History is filled with stories of great sacrifices that were based upon loyalty. In fact, you don't have to look very far to see how loyalty affects each of our lives.

One element of loyalty is trust. When we trust people, we believe that they will do their job, they will protect us and they will support us.

A young child, just learning to walk takes a few steps toward mother or father, sister or brother. Why? Does that child know anything about loyalty? Probably not, but they do know the person they are carefully walking toward. They reach out as they step into their unknown, confident that they will be safe.

In school, we learn many things from our teachers. They ask us to read, memorize, discuss and develop our talents. From these experiences we learn to trust their teaching and by learning basic things we can increase our own knowledge about the world.

Our mothers and fathers work, either for themselves or with others. In either case, they are building relationships that are based on trust.

All of these examples demonstrate the value of loyalty, that when we trust people we become loyal to them and in many cases, they become loyal to us.

Loyalty means that we stand up for something that is of great value; our family, our religion, our country, our friends, even our values.

The time will come that each of us will be asked to stand up and be counted on for what we believe, for that which we are loyal.

Many years ago, I raised my hand and took an oath to defend our nation. For 26 years I lived that oath every day. After I retired from the Army, I still felt that I had made a commitment to defend our nation. Only now I would do it a little differently. I would try and help others learn to defend their nation so that this would also protect our country.

But that loyalty isn't nearly as strong as the great loyalty that I have found in my family. Without their loyalty and support, I would not be able to complete the meaning of my loyalty oath.

It is my greatest hope that the rising generation of our Nation, recognizes the greatness of America and is loyal to the values and virtues found in our founding.

Many people have paid a great price for the freedoms we enjoy today. They were loyal to us and we should be loyal to them.

Loyalty begins in our hearts, our families, and our community. Being loyal means that we will stand up and be counted on to live our personal values in times of difficulty.

Ren Allred
Lindon Resident

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

The Pick-the-Right-Answer Game

Prepare a simple chart that shows the word and its opposite:

loyal
disloyal

Explain that you are going to tell a little story about several different people and you want the child to point to the word on the chart that describes how the person is acting or behaving.

- Janet's school class planned to have a car wash in the school parking lot to raise money. Those who could were asked to come and help, but no one had to come. Janet came and brought some towels and a bucket. (Loyal -- to her school.)
- Tammy was with two girls on the bus one day when one of the girls said some bad things that weren't true about Tammy's best friend, Jill. Tammy didn't say anything. (Disloyal – to her friend.)
- Jason's little brother had a Little League game one night. Jason had a lot of homework, but he worked hard at it until game time and then went to cheer for his brother. (Loyal – to his brother.)
- Alice always thought about the Pledge of Allegiance when her class said it. She felt proud to be an American. (Loyal – to her country.)

QUOTES ON LOYALTY

The highest spiritual quality, the noblest property of mind a man can have, is this of loyalty ... a man with no loyalty in him, with no sense of love or reverence or devotion due to something outside and above his poor daily life, with its pains and pleasures, profits and losses, is as evil a case as man can be.

ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE, *Ode to Mazzini*

The scholar does not consider gold and jade to be precious treasures, but loyalty and good faith.

CONFUCIUS, *The Wisdom of Confucius*

Our earliest ancestors probably learned that loyalty was a valuable survival tool. In the jungle, the desert, or the open plains, loyalty to your tribe increased your chances of surviving harsh weather and an unreliable supply of food and water.

DIANNE M. DURKIN, *The Loyalty Advantage*

BOOK LIST

- "Rabbit Inn"* by Patience Brewster
"Toot and Puddle" by Holly Hobbie
"The Wolf's Chicken Stew" by Keiko Kasca
"A Special Trade" by Karen Gundersheimer
"Julius the Baby of the World" by Kevin Henkes

KID'S CORNER

Being loyal means to be faithful, devoted or committed. You can be a loyal and true friend. You can be a good son or daughter, devoted to your family. We can be loyal fans of our school or sports team. We should be committed to the good standards of our community. When you are employed, you should be faithful and devoted to your company's success. We should have a sense of patriotism and loyalty to our country. We are faithful and devoted, each to our own religious beliefs. We should be respectful and honor the good in our race, culture and way of life. We should be loyal to the dignity of the soul of all of mankind. Edwin H. Chapin says, "No more important duty can be urged upon those who are entering the great theater of life than simple loyalty to their best convictions."

Erik Olssen, (May 2008, LCC Newsletter)

Lindon Character Connection is a not-for-profit organization encouraging the enhancement of character development in our community. We are accepting financial support. If you can help please send contributions to:
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