

This is the Commandment
By Trey Sullins

Should Christians be loyal? Should they be loyal to their friends, family, and brethren? Most importantly should they be loyal to God? In 1 Corinthians 16:13, the Bible teaches that Christians should be loyal to God's commands. It is the duty of Christians, as they are God's people, to be loyal to Him. However, God has always required that His people be loyal to Him since the beginning of time. In Deuteronomy 6:1-9, God through Moses is telling His people exactly how He wants them to show their loyalty. In this text there are three overall desires that God has for His people and their loyalty to Him.

The first desire is God wanted His people to know and keep His commandments (Deuteronomy 6:1-2). Before the children of Israel could keep the commands of God, they had to first know the commands of God. In order to know the commands of God, people must put effort into learning them. The Israelites had to spend time on trying to understand the commands. After the commands were known, then the people could work on keeping the commands. Israel had to keep all of the commands of God must be kept; therefore, the people had no right to pick and choose what commands they liked. Their everyday life must be lived according to all the commands of God.

As God's people today, it is also Christians' responsibility to know and keep the commandments of God. Christians must first learn the commands of God (Romans 10:17). They cannot simply hear the Bible preached; they must understand the Bible and what it teaches. After they understand the Bible, then they must commit to keeping the commands. The Bible gives specific commands for all aspects of the worship assembly, and these must be followed exactly as they are commanded. But it is not only in the worship assembly. The commands must also be followed in everyday life. Failing to do so will result in punishment.

The second desire is God wanted the children of Israel to observe His commands with love (Deuteronomy 6:3-5). The children of Israel were God's chosen people; therefore, they were obligated to love God and should have felt obligated. God gave them a special relationship with Him which should have made them desire even more to love Him. As God's chosen nation they could not just passively serve God. They had to love Him with all their heart, soul, and strength in their service to Him. Those who chose not to serve God with love were punished by God.

Christians today are to serve with love in the same way that Israel was supposed to. In 1 Peter 2:9-10, Christians are a chosen generation and royal priesthood. Christians are God's special people which should make them feel obligated to love Him in their service. As His chosen people they must love Him enough to serve with all their love. Even Jesus quote Deuteronomy and says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Again, if people choose not to love God in their service, they will be punished.

The Third desire of God for Israel was to teach the commandments. The text does not only say to teach, but diligently teach. This means that the Israelite nation was to be searching and seizing every opportunity to teach the commands of God. A list of different situations is given for times when Israel should teach the commands: "when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way,

when you lie down, and when you rise up (Deuteronomy 6:7).” The children of Israel were to use all the time necessary to teach the commands of God. Verse nine states that they were even to bind them on their hands and as frontlets between their eyes. Not only would this help them remember, but it would show others that they were trying to be diligent in their teaching and remind others that they should do the same.

Christians must also teach the commands of God. Every opportunity needs to be used for the teaching of the Bible and the commands that are found within it. Christians ought to have Bible studies in their homes as often as possible. But not only the home needs to be taught, in the everyday life of Christians there are people who need to be taught the saving message. If the message is not spread to children and to others in the world, then who will carry on the church?

Throughout all time, God has wanted His people to be loyal to Him. Therefore, it is necessary that for people to show their loyalty to God they must know and keep the commands of God, observe those commands in love, and teach the commands diligently. Without loyalty to God, what hope does the Christian have. If Christians, as God’s chosen people, are not loyal to Him, then they are not doing their jobs. How loyal are we today?