

Essential Loyalty

The Book of First John – EPISODE 4 (1 John 2:15-29)

*Note for production team

1 John 2:15-29

Warning 1: Do not love the world, love God.

Warning 2: Don't be fooled, follow the real Jesus.

Grace empowers our work (practice or training) not removes the need for it.

Encouragement: Remain faithful.

We know God through His Word.

We live for God through His Spirit.

Philippians 2:12-13 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Remaining Faithful to King Jesus brings us courage not shame.

Proverbs 20:4-8 (NLT) ⁴ Those too lazy to plow in the right season will have no food at the harvest. ⁵ Though good advice lies deep within the heart, a person with understanding will draw it out. ⁶ Many will say they are loyal friends, but who can find one who is truly reliable? ⁷ The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children who follow them. ⁸ When a king sits in judgment, he weighs all the evidence, distinguishing the bad from the good.

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PRACTICING THE WAY

As disciples of Jesus, we know our allegiance to Him as King is expressed in our daily practice. We are not pursuing perfection but want to practice our faith each day. These practices will point you toward spiritual formation as an apprentice (disciple) to Jesus.

Start the Bible Recap reading plan.

Recite this prayer daily:

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Talk it Over (with friends, a spouse, or your Group)

Read [1John 2:15-29](#). What do you notice in this passage?

Sunday's message was about remaining loyal to King Jesus. What was one key take-away for you?

Read [Mark 4:3-8;13-20](#). What do you notice about God in this passage? What in this passage correlates to the passage in 1 John that we read earlier?

Grace empowers our work it doesn't remove our need for it. Read and discuss [Philippians 2:12-13](#) in light of this truth.

According to [1John 2:28-29](#) remaining in fellowship with Christ brings us courage instead of shame when Jesus returns. What do you think it means to remain in fellowship with Christ?

Recite the above prayer as a group.