

Loyalty

She Needs to Know You're Committed

Closeness, Openness, Understanding, Peacemaking and now Loyalty

I want to start with a story how not to show loyalty.

Story goes about 4 men that would golf together for years every Saturday. One Saturday they came to the 6th hole which ran along a road out in the country. As one of the foursome got ready for his drive a funeral procession went by. He respectfully stopped, took off his cap and held it over his heart until the procession passed. One of his partners looked at him and said, Joe, that was a very nice thing to do, I've never seen anyone stop playing to honor a funeral procession before. Joe answered, It was the least I could do... we were married for 43 years.

The really sad thing here is that one of my nurses who subsequently got divorced said it wasn't too funny because she felt that is what her husband would do.

I think a lot of women might feel that way at times and it is our job as husbands to prevent that.

How much do you love me?

- * **Will you love me when I'm old and gray? invalid? Alzheimer's?**
 - A. What's the matter? Afraid I'll trade you in for a new model? I plan to keep you around... at least for a while
 - B. Of course I love you; and we're going to grow old and gray together.
- * "B" - Reassurance energizes her

Have you ever had your wife ask this question of you? It can come in various versions as noted.

Two possible answers.

Choose B every time and know that this is really no joking matter to your wife. She needs that reassurance from you that you will stick with her through thick and thin and always be with her to the very end... of life. She needs that reassurance which energizes her.

She's a One-Man Woman, and He's...?

- * She becomes insecure when you appear attracted to someone on TV or beautiful woman walking by... Facebook?
- * in her mind it makes it possible that you could be unfaithful
- * She is insecure in this area and needs reassurance - not jokes and teasing

Your wife knows that she is a one-man woman and that she is committed to you. She can become insecure very easily however. When you don't give her the knowledge that she is the only woman for you, she can become very insecure which will close her off to you and in the right circumstances could be very devastating. You need to be aware that she will think it possible for you to be unfaithful without frequent reassurance. And it is not a joking matter to her. Women are very sensitive in this area.

Here are a couple instances but I want to spend just a few seconds on Facebook. I think social media can be very good for a lot of things.. old friends, business, sharing pics with distant family... but it can also be devastating for marriages. There is no set figure but nonscientific figures has put it as high as 20% as a cause for divorce. I doubt that is true but am convinced it is a significant number. I honestly can't think of a reason to carry on any online relationship with someone of the opposite sex and if you do, it should be VERY open with your spouse.

JOB 31:1 - I have made a covenant with my eyes. How then could I look at a young woman?

JOB 31:3-4 - Doesn't disaster come to the unjust and misfortune to evil doers? Does He not see my ways and number all my steps?

MATT 5:27-28 - You have heard it said "do not commit adultery": but I tell you that everyone who looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

There is biblical basis for this and we are going to go over a number of verses to drive the point home about being faithful and in turn showing loyalty to your wife.

Read verses

JOB 31:1 - *I have made a covenant with my eyes. How then could I look at a young woman?*

- * Eyes are considered a gateway to the the inner person
- * They got Samson and David in trouble

In Job 31 he is defending his purity by showing how he would not let his senses be his down fall. He talks about making a covenant with his eyes.

The eyes were and are considered the gateway to the inner person, the soul. He has made a covenant with his eyes to not lead him into lustfulness.

Remember how eyes got Samson and David into trouble. I think of David often when discussing this subject because I think if he can fail in this area, anyone can. Here is the King that wrote most of the Psalms and he still had trouble with his eyes in the case of Bathsheba

*JOB 31:3-4 - Doesn't disaster come to the unjust and
misfortune to evil doers? Does He not see my ways and
number all my steps?*

- * Job understood the impact of his actions on his spiritual life
- * impact on the relationship with his wife

Job goes on to state that he understands the impact of giving in to the lusts of the flesh on his spiritual life. That in turn will have an impact on his wife as well. Husbands would be good to follow the heart of Job in this instance.

Jesus also had a lot to say on this subject in Matthew

MATT 5:27-28 - *You have heard it said “do not commit adultery”; but I tell you that everyone who looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

* She feels secure when she knows you have made a covenant with God

Security → Love and Loyalty → Energized and motivated

Jesus made this statement in the Sermon on the Mount.

This gets back to knowing what your eyes can and can't handle and subsequently how that will affect your heart. If you have problems in this area you need to clear that out. If you can't be on the internet when alone then make sure the computer is in a "public" place in the house. When traveling put controls on the TV.

When a woman sees that her husband has made a covenant with God and is trying to make Jesus the Lord of his life in every area... including his marriage. She is going to feel more secure.

When she feels **secure** she is assured of her husband's **love and loyalty** and subsequently is **energized and motivated**. This is the way that God made her and why the covenant of marriage is based on loyalty.

PROV 5:15 - *Drink water from your own cistern, and fresh water from your own well.*

- * Water, cistern = wife
- * The allusion is to quenching one's sexual thirst
- * Do all you can to let her know you are committed "as long as you both shall live"
- * don't use the "D" word - even in jest

Two more verses along these lines of maintaining loyalty. Solomon speaks of it in Proverbs 5 where he talks about drinking water from your own cistern and well.

The figurative references to water, cistern, and well are interpreted as one's wife. The allusion here is to fulfill your sexual desires and quench your sexual thirst with your wife only.

Do whatever you need to in order to let her know you are committed until death. That is a very base need for a woman. No joking allowed in this area.

SONG 8:6 - *Set me as a seal on your heart, as
a seal on your arm...*

- * “Seal” in Hebrew = signet or signet ring
- * Wedding ring
- * You are sealed emotionally and physically

Solomon again in Song of Solomon demonstrates how deeply the woman wants her husband. She wants to be branded/wedded to him with a seal. This is where the symbolism of a ring comes from as well. Being as close as a ring on a finger. Notice that she wants to be sealed on his heart (emotions) as well as his arm (physically)

Are You Being as Loyal as You Could Be?

MAL 2:14-16 - Yet you say, “For what reason?” Because the Lord has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have *dealt treacherously*, though she is your *companion* and your wife by *covenant*. But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did that one do while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then, to your spirit, and let no one *deal treacherously against the wife of your youth*. “For I hate divorce,” says the Lord the God of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong,” says the Lord of hosts. “So take heed to your spirit, that you do not *deal treacherously*.”

Last set of verses for today comes again from the Old Testament in Malachi. The Israelites were divorcing their Jewish wives in order to marry pagan women. This was displeasing to God and he would refuse to answer favorably to their sacrifices. This is another example of many we have seen over the past weeks where an interruption in our relationship with our spouse has a direct impact in our relationship with our God. Persistent sin renders worship meaningless.

I want to go over just a few words from this passage in the next slide to show the need for us as men to be loyal to our wives.

Are You Being as Loyal as You Could Be?

- * She is your companion
 - * you made a covenant - witnessed by God
- * Treacherously^{Hebrew} = deceitfully, unfaithfully, act covertly
- * Questions to ask yourself
 - * What is going on in your spirit?
 - * Are you being open and understanding?
 - * Are you being loyal as you can be?

Malachi makes the point that she is your companion. I know we spoke of friendship as a woman to a man last week but here we see the marriage relationship again as a friendship or companionship. This time though it is one that is made via covenant, or contract, with God as witness.

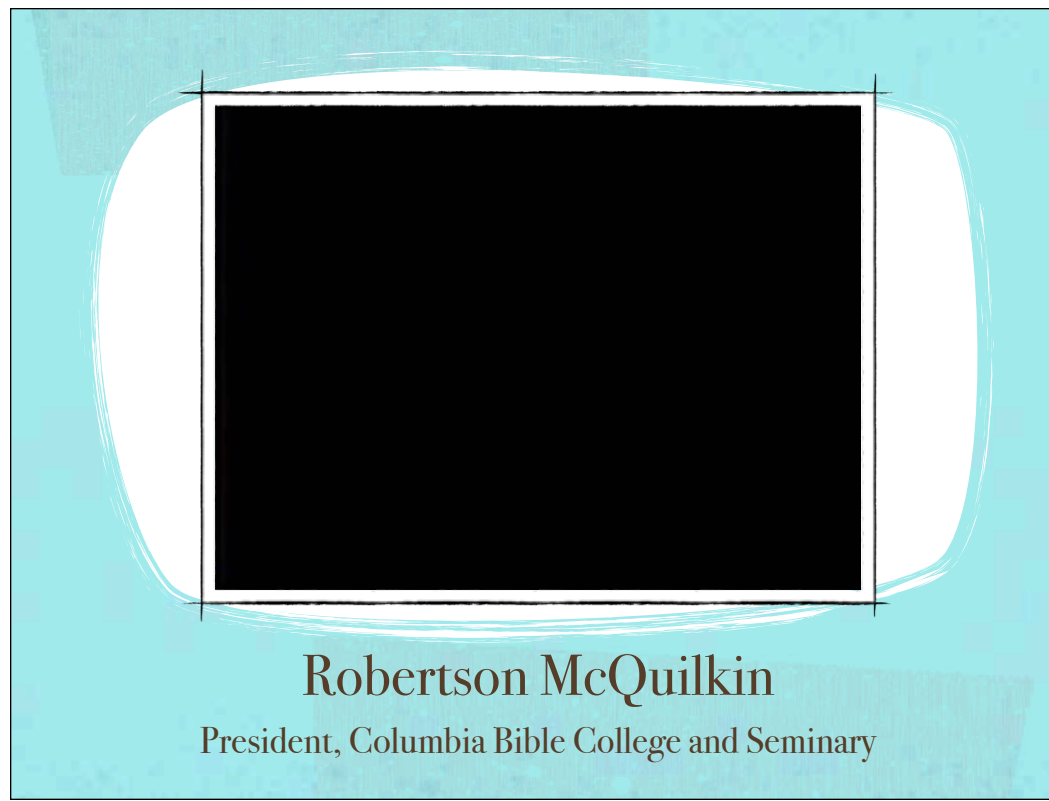
Treacherously is mentioned 3 times in these three verses. It means deceitfully, unfaithfully or acting covertly. We need to be sure we are in the right spirit when dealing with our wives.

There are 3 questions to ask yourselves:

Where is your spirit in relation to your wife

Are you being open and understanding as we have discussed before?

Are you being as loyal as you can be? What are some things you can do to show that loyalty?



This is a very touching story of Robertson McQuilkin who was President of Columbia Bible College and Seminary for 22 years until 1990 when he decided to step down to care for his wife who was in the progressive stages of Alzheimer's. It was clear that she needed him and he made the difficult decision to leave a position that he had many years left to work in, in order to care for her. Here is his story of how he came to that decision:

He ultimately wrote a book called "A Promise Kept" and had this outpouring of support and response that baffled him as to why. He ultimately had that clarified when he was talking about this with an oncologist who deals with dying people all the time. The oncologist said to him, "Almost all women stand by their men, but very few men stand by their women."

When your wife becomes insecure and moves toward you with questions about how much you love her or why you love her. It is not a trap. NEXT SLIDE

* She is built to be loyal to you - She just needs the reassurance of your loyalty to her.

Read slide

She is Assured of your Loyalty When...

- * you speak highly of her in front of others
- * you don't look lustfully at other women
- * you make her and your marriage a priority
- * you include her in social gatherings when others may leave their spouses home
- * you don't correct her in front of the children

She is assured of your loyalty when...