

Wednesday's Word

July 15, 2015

Devotion and Loyalty, are they the same?

Blogs like this and other daily readings regarding the Lord are called Devotionals which stem from the word 'devotion'. My curious mind had this question, is devotion the same as loyalty? I am bringing all of you along as I look to see if there is any difference between these two words.

Devotion:

Origin: Middle English: from Latin devotio(n-), from devovere 'consecrate' (see devote). {**devote origin:** Late 16th century (in the sense 'dedicate formally, consecrate'): from Latin devot-'consecrated', from the verb devovere, from de- 'formally' + vovere 'to vow'.; **devote definition:** (devote something to) Give all or a large part of one's time or resources to (a person, activity, or cause).}

Definitions:

- *Love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a person, activity, or cause.
- *Religious worship or observance.
- *(devotions) Prayers or religious observances.

Loyalty:

Origin: {from the word 'loyal'} Mid 16th century: from French, via Old French loial from Latin legalis (see legal).

Definitions:

- *The quality of being loyal to someone or something.
- *(often loyalties) A strong feeling of support or allegiance.

Though these words seem similar, I see a difference. One brings a sense of duty, 'loyal', while 'devotion' brings a sense of being. Though there is a difference it can be said that one cannot exist without the other. You cannot be devoted without being loyal first.

To put this in everyday language let's use national patriotism as an example. We cannot be devoted to our country (whatever country you are from) without first being loyal. Being loyal to our country means following the laws that country was founded on. If you disagree with those laws established, there is no way you can be totally devoted to give your all.

The same is true of our Lord. If we cannot be loyal to our Lord, following the commands He has set forth, we cannot and are not fully devoted to Him. He has consecrated us to Himself by His blood and by His Spirit. He Himself has 'devoted' us to His service and purpose. Without our loyalty to Him it is impossible to walk in the service and purpose He has devoted us for. Also, we will be unable to know and understand what service and purpose He has devoted us to without our loyalty to Him.

To help bring this point home, here are synonyms of each word.

Loyalty: allegiance, faithfulness, obedience, adherence, homage, devotion; steadfastness, staunchness, trueheartedness, dependability, reliability, trustworthiness, duty, dedication, commitment; patriotism

The opposite of loyalty is treachery.

Devotion: loyalty, faithfulness, fidelity, constancy, commitment, adherence, allegiance, dedication; devoutness, piety, religiousness, spirituality, godliness, holiness, sanctity

We are called to be loyal and devoted to the Lord our God above everything else.

Bible Verses:

Mark 10:28-31 - Then Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You." 29 So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, 30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Matthew 16:24-27 - Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find

it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

Matthew 4:18-22 - And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him. 21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

1 Corinthians 7:20-24 - Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called. 21 Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use it. 22 For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ's slave. 23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. 24 Brethren, let each one remain with God in that state in which he was called.

Romans 8:28-30 - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Revelation 3:14-22 - "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments,

that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.""

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=0Ec6xT9ixGE>

Other Source:

<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us>

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