

Teamwork Fueled by Loyalty

Good afternoon everyone! Today, we're going to talk about a powerful truth: Great teams are built on loyalty. Loyalty that doesn't care who gets the credit, loyalty that stands strong no matter who's in the spotlight, and loyalty that puts the success of the team above personal glory.

Proverbs 17:17 says, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity." Loyalty means being there for each other – not just when things are good, but when the game is tough, when you're down on the scoreboard, or when your teammate makes a mistake.

Your first responsibility as a teammate is to make decisions that will help the team win. That means asking yourself before every practice, every game, every choice: "Is what I'm about to do going to help us succeed?" If the answer is no, it's time to change course.

Interactive Moment: Turn to the person next to you and share one decision you can make this week that will directly help your team succeed – on or off the field.

Your second responsibility is to make everyone else better. Philippians 2:3-4 reminds us, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." When you lift others up, you raise the whole team.

Interactive Moment: Think about a teammate who might be struggling. What is one thing you can do to encourage or support them this week?

In sports, it's easy to focus on stats, highlights, and MVP awards. But here's the truth – when the team wins, everyone wins. Loyalty says, "I don't care who scores, I care that we score." Jesus said in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." On your team, that means sacrificing comfort, credit, or recognition for the sake of the group.

So here's my challenge to you: Be loyal. Not just when it's easy, but when it's hard. Make decisions that help your team win. Commit to making others better. And remember – the measure of a great team is not how many stars it has, but how brightly it shines together.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 says, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up." Let's be the kind of teammates who always help each other up.