In our next Values and Deliberate Living class on **THURSDAY, September 17 at 8:00 p.m.**, we will address this

**Loyalty Quote**

“Loyalty means I am down with you whether you are wrong or right, but I will tell you when you are wrong and help you get it right.”

“If loyalty is, and always has been, perceived as obsolete, why do we continue to praise it? Because loyalty is essential to the most basic things that make life livable. Without loyalty there can be no love. Without loyalty there can be no family. Without loyalty there can be no friendship. Without loyalty there can be no commitment to community or country. And without those things, there can be no society.” – Eric Felten

**LOYALTY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**WHAT’S YOUR DEFINITION OF LOYALTY?**
Most people assume that everyone thinks of loyalty the same way. The truth is that people have different ideas of what loyalty really, truly is. For some people, it’s a very strict thing, and for others, it involves very little. Whichever side you fall on, or wherever you stand in between, you shouldn’t fall into the trap of assuming your partner feels the same way.

**But are there limits to loyalty?** The term ‘blind loyalty’ is often used to explain why otherwise good people get themselves into bad situations. ‘She’s loyal to a fault’, someone says in describing a friend who has been jilted by a repeatedly cheating spouse. Loyalty can often cause us to overlook the obvious faults, actions and questionable behavior of others; to our own demise. **Can being too loyal in the face of another’s questionable actions actually enable others to become self-destructive and deprive us of other life opportunity?**

**We may be loyal to others even when those same persons don’t repay that loyalty. So when do we cease being loyal?** Appropriate loyalty has standards, protocol and limits. While we should not use the excuses of tough times, carnal temptation or greed as good reason to toss loyalties upon a fire;
we must be true to ourselves and understand when inappropriate loyalty is holding us back.

**What are the standards and protocol of loyalty?** Loyalty must be based upon mutual trust and respect. Loyalty must be tested with the barometers of strong ethics and morality. We can be loyal without loving, but real love usually begets loyalty. We can forgive others who let us down yet still allow our loyalty to wane, that’s OK. It is actually a sign of your maturity when you can forgive another without retribution and hold no grudge; yet release your loyalty. If others truly love you, they will want to earn loyalty back again.

The kids say loyalty is “sticking by your friends” and “being true to yourself and to your friends and family” and even “being faithful to your country.”

1. How do you define loyalty?
2. How are between being loyal to a friend and being loyal to your country the same? How are they different?
3. Who are you loyal to? Why?
4. How do you show your loyalty?
5. One of the kids says, “You feel better if you are loyal because then you will not be alone.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Loyalty to:
1. Friends For Example a friend confides in you that they are having an affair. You are also friendly with their spouse. What do you do?
2. Israel recently proposed annexing the West Bank. Assume you oppose this. You have been invited to a demonstration. Do you attend?
3. Nation: We pulled out of the International Agreement to reduce their pollution. i.e. green house gases, Paris Climate Accord, Do you demonstrate?
4. What do you do when your values conflict with being loyal?

**What are the indicators of loyalty?**
Your friend really needs money. You catch him stealing money from you. What do you do? OR You catch him stealing money from your employer who has been kind to him in the past/ is having a hard time staying in business.