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## Faithful

Where we lived years ago there were two big dogs that you would often see out and about. They were always together, enjoying their romp, enjoying being together.

Early one morning when it was still dark I saw them on the side of the road. One was sitting straight and alert, standing guard beside the other who lay dead after being hit by a car. The dog would not leave its companion until hours later at the end of the day when the owner came and took both dogs. The dog was faithful to its companion.

Faithful. To be faithful is to be trustworthy, dependable, consistent; to be one who others can count on.

God is faithful. It is part of His eternal, unchanging nature. He is forever faithful, trustworthy, dependable, consistent; you can always count on Him. The Bible tells us,

“Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His faithfulness to a thousand generations for those who love Him and keep His commandment” (Deuteronomy 7:9).

As king Solomon testified, “not one word has failed of all His good promise” (1 Kings 8:56).

And, in the familiar words of Jeremiah, “The LORD’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23).

God is faithful to forgive us our sins, as we read in 1 John 1:9.

He is faithful, as Paul declared, even when we are not (2 Timothy 2:13).

One of Jesus’ names is “Faithful and True” (Revelation 19:11).

As God’s children we are to be like Him. We are to be faithful, faithful to God, faithful to others.

Part of the character of Christ, the fruit the Holy Spirit produces in God’s people, is faithfulness (Galatians 5:22). We are to always be trustworthy, dependable, consistent.



Faithfulness is to mark our character, and so then our actions in all areas of our life. Faithfulness is not restricted to limited parts and times of our lives. We are God's children, and His servants. Recall how the apostle Paul stressed the importance of faithfulness,

“This is the way any person is to regard us: as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy” (1 Corinthians 4:1-2).

It is important to be faithful in both the little things and the big things. It is a matter of character. Jesus tells us, “The one who is faithful in a very little thing is also faithful in much; and the one who is unrighteous in a very little thing is also unrighteous in much” (Luke 16:10).

Remember as well the parable Jesus told in Matthew 25 about the servants entrusted with responsibility while their master was away. When he returned he evaluated their service and rewarded only the good and faithful servants.

We are to be faithful at all times, when it is easy and when it is not. In Revelation chapter 2 Jesus told the church at Smyrna that those who were faithful in suffering and persecution would receive a special reward.

Question: how faithful are you, really? today? How faithful have you been in this last week? How faithful have you been to God, to your family, to your work, to your friends, to your church?

Faithfulness begins to grow and flourish when we realize that not only does God require it of us, but also that He is at work in us to transform us from being unfaithful to faithful as we read and apply His word, stay in touch with and accountable to Him in prayer, are open and accountable with others, and rely on His power to accomplish it.

All of us, by God's grace, can be faithful people. We can, with the apostle Paul, survey our lives and say,

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

Pastor Lyle