

Faithful

I remember preachers pounding the pulpit urging Christians to “be faithful until death” (Revelation 2:10). What does that mean?

Perhaps it is an oversimplification, but you could say that it means that a Christian is *not unfaithful* to Christ. (Then you might ask, “So what does that mean?”)

We understand faithfulness in marriage; it has a twofold meaning. First, the husband and wife both bring to the marriage all that is involved in making a marriage a marriage. Second, neither one add to the marriage something that would pollute the marriage. Faithfulness also carries the idea of duration. So, in a marriage, husband and wife commit to each other for the duration of life.

Behind the actions of faithfulness is an attitude of faithfulness. A person intends to be faithful.

Consider:

Many years ago my older sister and I left home at the end of our Christmas break to return to college. There was a blanket of snow on the ground as we began our trip *south*. Along the way the snow-covered highway became an ice-covered highway. Though driving slowly and carefully, I lost control. We spun around and slid into a ditch, the car pointing *north*. A kind man in a truck stopped and pulled us out of the ditch. There was no damage to the car and we resumed our journey *south* to college.

Question: At what point were we headed back home?

- The car slid off the road...heading home?
- The car was pointed *north*...heading home?
- We were pulled *northward* out of the ditch...heading home?

- We were a bit shaken up and I felt responsible for my sister...heading home?

Though we had ‘left the path’ there was never a point in which we *intended* to go back home. The mishap and the physical orientation of the car did not indicate a change of heart. Our intentions were always college bound. In fact, we later pulled off the road intentionally and looked for a place to eat, yet we were still on our way to college.

The illustration simply emphasizes that a person can be faithful to a decision, yet also have diversions along the way. Even with setbacks, faithfulness perseveres.

In short, faithfulness means, *no turning back* from one’s decision to follow Christ. Once a devoted disciple to Christ, a Christian must never quit, never return to his former way of thinking and living.

Faithfulness also means, *Christ only*. There is no room for another Lord. You cannot mix Christianity with another religion or another philosophy or former sinful practices. The Bible never teaches “Christ...and” something else.

In the Old Testament God is sometimes described as a *jealous* God. The Apostle Paul explained:

There is **one Lord**, one faith, one baptism, **one God and Father** of all who is over all and through all and in all.
(Ephesians 4:5-6)

Faithfulness is ALL Christ, ONLY Christ, ALWAYS Christ; NO MATTER THE COST...Christ.