



THE FAMILY CHURCH  
ESTABLISHED 2016

[www.thefamilychurchnj.com](http://www.thefamilychurchnj.com)

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## THE FAMILY CHURCH MESSAGE NOTES

Title: **The Trap**

Subtitle: **Loyalty: Manipulation of Influence Pt. 1**

Speaker: **Pastor Dawn Winsley**

Scripture: **James 4:8 (NLT)**

Date: **April 17, 2024**

### **James 4:8 (NLT)**

<sup>8</sup>Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

### **Introduction**

Loyalty is a strong feeling of support or allegiance. There are many things that compete against our loyalty or allegiance that should be reserved for God. For some, it is your children, your job, your husband, your momma, your daddy, hobbies, drugs, alcohol, your wife, your education, your money, your career, your pastor, certain places, certain things, and the list keeps going on and on. It's more than an emotion or feeling. Loyalty describes an action. God's actions are loyal to us. In other words, His Divine Loyalty is a covenant love or a personal commitment to be faithful; which makes HIM honor-bound to perform EVERY one of HIS Promises towards us!!

There is a specific area within our heart that is only reserved for God. When we get that area confused we fall into THE TRAP!

### **Three things that open the trap to loyalty**

1. The need to be **recognized**.

#### **Genesis 27:6-10 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup>Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "Look, I overheard your father say to your brother Esau, <sup>7</sup>'Bring me some game and prepare me some tasty food to eat, so that I may give you my blessing in the presence of the Lord before I die.'<sup>8</sup> Now, my son, listen carefully and do what I tell you: <sup>9</sup>Go out to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, so I can prepare some tasty food for your father, just the way he likes it. <sup>10</sup>Then take it to your father to eat, so that he may give you his blessing before he dies."

***The trap of feeling unrecognized opens the door to wanting someone else's success!***

**Rev. 22:12 (NIV)** <sup>12</sup>"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.

2. The need to be **loved**.

#### **Genesis 27:11-13 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, “But my brother Esau is a hairy man while I have smooth skin. <sup>12</sup>What if my father touches me? I would appear to be tricking him and would bring down a curse on myself rather than a blessing.”<sup>13</sup> His mother said to him, “My son, let the curse fall on me. Just do what I say; go and get them for me.”

***The trap of feeling the need to be loved opens the door to thinking wrong is right!***

**Isaiah 54:10 (NIV)** Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed, ”says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

3. The need to feel **important**.

**Genesis 27:41-45 (NIV)**<sup>41</sup> Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. He said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”<sup>42</sup> When Rebekah was told what her older son Esau had said, she sent for her younger son Jacob and said to him, “Your brother Esau is planning to avenge himself by killing you. <sup>43</sup>Now then, my son, do what I say: Flee at once to my brother Laban in Harran. <sup>44</sup>Stay with him for a while until your brother’s fury subsides. <sup>45</sup>When your brother is no longer angry with you and forgets what you did to him, I’ll send word for you to come back from there. Why should I lose both of you in one day?”

***The trap of feeling unimportant opens the door to control and manipulation.***

**Romans 8:17 (NIV)** <sup>17</sup> Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

How do we close the trap !

1. Know **who** you are in Christ Jesus
2. Know God **loves** you
3. Know your self- **worth**

**Read Jeremiah 9:24 (AMPC)**



**CREATIVE SQUAD-** If you have a skill in videography, video editing, website design, graphic design, planning events, branding, social media, content creation, and script writing, the Creative Squad needs you. If interested, email your name, number, area of interest, and a few samples of your portfolio to [icreate@thefamilychurchnj.com](mailto:icreate@thefamilychurchnj.com)

**HELP UGANDA** - Pastors Ted & Dawn Winsley will be traveling to bless other leaders in Uganda Africa from June 24th - July 9th. If you would like to be a blessing, please donate using the QR Code.

**Next Step Classes** - Next Step classes will be offered at 9:30 am. For more information, register through our mobile app. Or, send any inquiries to [adulthoodeducation@thefamilychurchnj.com](mailto:adulthoodeducation@thefamilychurchnj.com)

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

1st Sunday of the Month

### **DEVOTION/PRAYER**

Corporate Prayer Every Saturday 8 am – 8:30 am  
Conference call line 267.807.9605 and access code 114853  
Last Saturday of the month 8 am – 9 am In person

### **WAYS TO GIVE & CONNECT**

#### **TITHES/OFFERINGS** (scan QR code)

1. Text your giving to 84321
2. CashApp to \$Tfcnj
3. Mail-in to The Family Church, 333 Preston Ave.  
Voorhees, NJ 08043,
4. The Family Church NJ (Mobile app)

