

Mr Mark Trotter

Now day's loyalty is a hard thing to come by.
You can not achieve loyalty alone, it takes two.

As a young person I have noticed that we live in a very disposable world. It is getting worse as technology progresses. We live in a fast paced society where everything is at our fingertips and affordable. Eg: food, cell phones, cars, jobs and in some cases friends. The younger generation, I believe are the worst, because they are used to being able to replace straight away something that has been lost or broken and have forgotten simple things in life such as loyalty, whether to a person or an object.

To me loyalty is a huge part of my life and I like to think I am a very loyal person. I heard a quote that I think is a good way of looking at loyalty and I try and remember it in not just Tae kwon-Do but in all parts of my life

"If my friends were to jump off a bridge, I would not follow them, I'd be at the bottom to catch them"

It is a great way of looking at things, that no matter what, within reason, my friends do, I will be there to help.

To me true loyalty is someone that is there for you in good times and bad, in fact when trouble comes your way, true friends are there for the worst. BUT there is a difference in blind loyalty. Sometimes you have to make a decision for yourself and at times people may not agree with it.

When I was younger my Instructor left ITFNZ and as his student I followed my Instructor. At the time it seemed like the right thing to do, but looking back on it now, it was not right for me. I had passed the point where he could help me grow.

As Instructors I think we have to realize when a student has passed our knowledge base and be willing to let them continue to improve even if under other instruction.

The TKD Bible says that the best day for an Instructor is the day a student surpasses them. I agree and think it is one of the biggest compliments a student can do for their Instructor.

My Instructor Mr Steve McQuillan has not trained me for the past four years due to work commitments, but even still, he is and will always be my Instructor.

Loyalty in this instance has worked both ways a) I am still loyal after four years of not training together b) Mr McQuillan was and is a loyal instructor over the past ten years.

I don't know of many 30 year old single men who would pay their own way around the world to coach a group of kids, the hundreds of hours he spent trying to get us up to world standards. His only thanks was the look on our faces when he saw us achieve our goals.

I will never forget Mr McQuillan's help and support and will always remain loyal and try my best to never forget the effort and patience he must have had.

In return I am striving to pass on the knowledge of loyalty that Mr McQuillan and other Senior members in ITFNZ have given me, and hope that one day my students will have the same respect and loyalty that I have for my Instructor.

I believe that without the qualities that TKD has given me I would not be the person I am today.

I think within Taekwon-Do, students and supporters are some of the best and most loyal friends I have made.

Loyalty is not a sometimes thing, it is an all the time thing. It does not come and go. It is not in what you say, but in what you do.

Mark Trotter

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