

BE CAREFUL WHO YOU LET IN

The Spiritual Dangers of Unholy Alliances

RC Blakes Jr.

Some of the most expensive decisions you will ever make concern who you allow close enough to influence you. You can recover money. You can replace possessions. But a relationship can influence your judgment, reshape your convictions, and affect people who never agreed to that relationship in the first place.

Before you give someone access, you must consider what that access allows them to influence. Who will they be able to reach through you? What will you begin to tolerate because you love them? What will you find yourself defending because you do not want to lose them?

Many people examine whether a connection feels good without examining where it is leading. They appreciate the attention. They enjoy the opportunity. They feel understood. But they never stop to ask: Can I remain faithful to God while following the direction this relationship is taking me? You are carrying responsibilities that reach beyond your personal desires. There are children learning from your choices. There are people relying on your judgment. There is an assignment that requires your obedience.

According to Scripture, you are the temple of the living God. Your life is sacred. Your agreements matter. Your loyalties matter. The influence you welcome matters.

You can love people deeply and still require boundaries. You can desire someone's restoration without giving their dysfunction authority over your household.

Today we must examine why discernment is necessary when we decide who will have influence in our lives. Paul gives us the foundation in his warning about unequal yokes.

2 CORINTHIANS 6:14–18 KJV

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what

fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

A yoke binds two together in shared work and direction. Paul's concern is allegiance:

God's people cannot faithfully belong to Him while binding themselves to idolatry and unrighteousness.

An unholy alliance is a relationship or agreement that draws us into supporting, practicing, or protecting what opposes God.

Christian love includes kindness and service to people outside our faith.

Discernment examines the authority and participation a relationship requires. A difference of opinion or a difficult conversation does not, by itself, make a relationship ungodly.

QUOTE: "The access we grant people must be consistent with the ownership God has over our lives."

1. WHO WE LET IN CAN EXPOSE EVERYONE CONNECTED TO US

We must consider the reach of the access we give people. A relationship may begin with you, but its influence can reach your children, your marriage, your ministry, and everyone who relies on your judgment. People who trust you may lower their guard around someone simply because you have welcomed that person. Your endorsement can become someone else's reason to feel safe.

Before I allow someone to influence my life, I must consider the lives my decisions will affect. What happens when their dishonesty touches our resources? When their manipulation reaches our children? When their

disregard for boundaries becomes a problem the whole household must manage?

In Jonah's story, one man's disobedience endangered an entire ship. The sailors were struggling to survive a crisis connected to a decision they had not made. Eventually, Jonah acknowledged that connection.

JONAH 1:12 KJV

And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.

Jonah understood that his choices had consequences for the people traveling with him. The application is the responsibility we carry for how our decisions affect others. This account does not make every hardship evidence that someone around us is ungodly. Examine observable patterns: honesty, accountability, respect for boundaries, and the treatment of people who cannot offer anything in return. Consider what those patterns would produce if given influence in your household or ministry.

QUOTE: "Before you give someone access to your life, consider everyone they may gain access to through you."

Who else will be affected by the access I am about to grant?

2. WHAT WE ACCOMMODATE CAN PLACE US IN OPPOSITION TO GOD

There are relationships that gradually train us to silence our convictions. At first, we recognize the problem. Then we begin explaining it. Eventually, we find ourselves defending the very thing we once knew needed to change.

Our affection becomes an excuse for our cooperation. We conceal something because we do not want to embarrass them. We overlook something because we do not want to lose them. We resist correction

because we have become invested in keeping the arrangement intact. But our attachment does not change God's assessment.

In Joshua's day, Israel suffered defeat after Achan violated God's command and concealed what he had taken. God identified the covenant violation within the community and required it to be addressed. The obstacle could not be resolved while the disobedience remained hidden.

JOSHUA 7:11–12 KJV

Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff. Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

This passage records God's judgment on Israel's covenant violation. For our relationships, the searching application is whether we are knowingly protecting wrongdoing while asking God to prosper what we are doing.

Another person cannot overpower God's presence. Our own agreement with wrongdoing can put us in opposition to His instructions. God's correction calls us to repentance, honesty, and changed conduct. Stop lending your credibility to deception. Refuse to conceal mistreatment. Receive sound correction even when it challenges a relationship you want to preserve.

QUOTE: "When keeping someone close requires pushing conviction aside, that relationship has gained too much authority."

What am I protecting that God is calling me to confront?

3. UNHOLY AGREEMENTS CAN DRAW US INTO FELLOWSHIP WITH EVIL

We must discern what people invite us to participate in. A relationship can become the setting in which we accept beliefs, enter practices, or make commitments we would once have refused. We may tell ourselves that we are simply being supportive. But support becomes spiritually consequential when it requires our participation in something that opposes God.

Paul addresses this directly when he warns believers about participating in pagan sacrificial meals. Those meals involved worship and spiritual allegiance. The Corinthians could not treat participation at an idolatrous altar as an innocent addition to their fellowship with Christ. Paul makes the spiritual reality behind that participation unmistakable.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:20–22 KJV

But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils. Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?

The danger Paul identifies is active spiritual participation. Ordinary contact with another person does not automatically grant spirits authority over us. If we speak of giving the enemy access, we must examine the practices and agreements through which we participate in evil. What am I being asked to practice, affirm, or submit myself to? Does maintaining this connection require me to take part in spiritual practices that contradict my allegiance to Christ?

Affection cannot make idolatry harmless. A relationship cannot authorize divided allegiance. We can care for someone while refusing participation in practices that violate our faith.

QUOTE: "Love for a person must never become permission to participate in what draws you away from Christ."

Can I participate in what this person is inviting me into and remain faithful to

the Lord?

4. THEY CAN CHANGE WHAT WE CONSIDER NORMAL

One of the deepest dangers of a relationship is its ability to reshape our standards. Repeated exposure can make what once troubled our conscience feel ordinary. We begin adopting someone's language, accepting their explanations, and tolerating their conduct. Eventually, we may defend behavior we would have challenged before the relationship began.

This process can be gradual. You stop challenging the cruel joke. You become comfortable with the dishonest explanation. You begin describing accountability as interference because that is how your circle speaks about it.

Paul's warning appears in a chapter defending the resurrection. False belief and corrupting company have consequences for the way people live.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:33 KJV

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

"Communications" here includes companionship or association, and "manners" concerns moral conduct. The warning is that corrupting company can affect our character.

We should examine the influence we receive with humility. Being mature, gifted, or experienced does not remove the need for accountability. Ask trustworthy people whether they have observed a change in your patience, honesty, convictions, or treatment of others.

QUOTE: "A dangerous relationship can change your standards before you recognize that it has changed your direction."

What no longer bothers me that once convicted me?

5. PRIVATE ACCESS CAN BECOME A POINT OF VULNERABILITY

Closeness gives people knowledge of our fears, wounds, responsibilities, weaknesses, and places of dependence. That knowledge requires trustworthy character.

Pay attention to how someone handles the access already given. Do they protect your confidence? Do they respect a responsible refusal? Do they use what you shared in vulnerability to pressure you later?

In Samson's story, Delilah repeatedly pressed him for information that could be used against him. His attachment remained strong while the danger became increasingly evident. The account shows the pressure he experienced before he disclosed what he had been withholding.

JUDGES 16:16–17 KJV

And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death; That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.

The words "he told her all his heart" describe a disclosure made under relentless pressure. The story asks us to examine whether we are entrusting sensitive parts of our lives to people who have demonstrated care and faithfulness.

Healthy relationships can receive a boundary without punishing you for having it. Trustworthy people protect what you share and take responsibility when they mishandle it. Trust grows through demonstrated character over time.

QUOTE: "Trust should deepen where character has been

demonstrated."

Has this person shown that they can responsibly handle what they keep asking me to reveal?

HOW TO EXIT AN UNGODLY ALLIANCE

Recognizing an unhealthy alliance calls for a response. We must make decisions that bring our relationships into agreement with our obedience to God.

A. ACKNOWLEDGE WHERE YOU HAVE COMPROMISED.

Identify what the relationship has led you to excuse, conceal, support, or practice. Bring your own participation before God in repentance.

QUOTE: "Freedom begins when you stop defending what you need to change."

B. WITHDRAW YOUR AGREEMENT WITH WRONGDOING.

You can stop lying for someone, financing destructive behavior, participating in ungodly practices, or lending your name to what violates your convictions. You do not need their agreement before you stop participating.

C. CHANGE THE ACCESS THAT SUSTAINS THE INFLUENCE.

Establish boundaries around private information, money, time, decision-

making, and personal contact. Some relationships require firmer limits; others require an ending.

State your boundary clearly: "I care about you, but I cannot continue participating in this."

Where marriage, shared children, employment, or contracts are involved, seek sound pastoral and appropriate professional counsel about how to proceed. If there is intimidation or abuse, plan for safety with trusted support.

D. REBUILD ACCOUNTABILITY AND GODLY SUPPORT.

Invite trustworthy people to help you remain consistent. Reestablish the habits, responsibilities, and relationships you neglected while maintaining the alliance. Missing someone does not, by itself, mean the boundary was wrong.

QUOTE: "You can desire someone's restoration without restoring their former access to your life."

Leave room for forgiveness and genuine change, while allowing trust to be rebuilt through demonstrated faithfulness. We can begin today by bringing one honest question before God: Where have I allowed a relationship to influence me away from obedience? Let the answer lead to a responsible decision, a truthful conversation, and a boundary you are prepared to keep.

Father, give us wisdom to recognize the influence we welcome and courage to respond to Your correction. Forgive us for the compromises we have defended. Help us to love people faithfully, protect those entrusted to us, and keep our allegiance to Christ undivided. Surround us with wise counsel, and teach us to become trustworthy people ourselves. In Jesus' name, amen.

