

LifeGroup Questions

Based On: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

May 22, 2016

Overview:



In 2 Corinthians 6:14 the Apostle Paul starts out with a command. In the NIV it states: “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.” In the western world it is hard to picture anyone using a yoke. This is not a tool that is used today. Several translations interpret this word differently. The NASB uses the word bound. The Holman Bible uses the word mismatched. All of the translations have the same meaning. Do not be yoked, bound, or mismatched with unbelievers.

For the purpose of this lesson I want to use the illustration of a yoke. If you were trying to plow a field using an ox and a mule and they were not yoked together their different heights and strengths would pose a problem. Yoking things of unequal strength and height does make sense. It is like putting the same yoke on a horse and a squirrel. This will not functionally work. It is a complete mismatch. This is how Paul describes believers and unbelievers.

Paul goes on further to describe the mismatched relationship between a believer and an unbeliever. He compares it with righteousness and lawlessness, light and darkness, Christ and Belial, and the sanctuary of God and idols. Belial is a term that isn't used very much for Satan. It means worthless. Paul is stating that believers are in the world but not of the world. This is the same idea expressed in Jesus' prayer in John 17.

It is true that believers are not of this world. Christians have their identity with Christ not with the world. But all believers have been sent into the world to share the gospel. It is possible to be sent into the world and yet not become part of the world. Paul was writing to the church at Corinth which was surrounded by temples to false gods. Believers need to be a witness to their unbelieving neighbors, but they didn't need to join them in the worship of false gods.

Bible Study: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

1. What does it mean to be yoked with someone? Discuss how a Christian and non-Christian can associate together but not be yoked together. What level of involvement justifies being yoked?
2. Discuss the difference between the church being in the world and the world being in the church. Which one do you think Paul is addressing in this passage?
3. In what ways can people be yoked together today?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-16. Should Christians withdraw from society to maintain their purity as believers? Can the church seek purity without isolating itself? Why or why not?

5. Discuss the following quote: “Today, however, the church is often merely ‘a conspiracy of cordiality,’ in which we refuse to confront each other out of a lukewarm definition of ‘love’ that keeps everyone as distant from everyone else as possible.... This accounts for why, to many people, church becomes suffocatingly superficial. Everybody agrees to talk about everything here except what matters.... The loneliness and detachment of modern life, the way we are all made strangers, infects the church too.
6. Read 2 Corinthians 6:17-18. Our society relies a lot on willpower and positive thinking. How is one’s identity in God the key to seeking separation from the world?