

Do Not Be Yoked with Unbelievers

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. (2 Corinthians 6:14)

If you allow worldly ideologies and a worldly worldview to shape your thinking, you will defile yourself and destroy your fellowship with God.

I. Understand What This Yoke Is

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. (**2 Corinthians 6:14**)



You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together. (**Deuteronomy 22:10**)



For they say, 'His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account.'
(**2 Corinthians 10:10**)

Among the Corinthians their [false teachers'] ministry has promoted a moral corruption that comes from embracing the values of unbelievers. The false teachers have entangled members of the church with the worldly ways of unbelief... (George H. Guthrie, 2 Corinthians)

¹¹ We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. ¹² You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. ¹³ In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.
(**2 Corinthians 6:11-13**)

Make room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. (**2 Corinthians 7:2**)

For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough. (**2 Corinthians 11:4**)

⁵ Indeed, I consider that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles. ⁶ Even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; indeed, in every way we have made this plain to you in all things. ⁷ Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you free of charge?
(**2 Corinthians 11:5-7**)

For you gladly bear with fools, being wise yourselves! (**2 Corinthians 11:19**)

II. See the Absurdity of This Yoke

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. **For** what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God... **(2 Corinthians 6:14–16)**

For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough. **(2 Corinthians 11:4)**

- **What partnership has righteousness with lawlessness?**
- **What fellowship has light with darkness?**
- **What accord has Christ with Belial?**
- **What portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?**

*“Just as in a yoked team the difference between two mismatched animals keeps them from pulling the yoke in the same way and with the same force, so also is an alliance between light and darkness unimaginable—between Christ and Belial, between pagans and believers in their practical living.” **(Ceslas Spicq)***

- **What agreement has the temple of God with idols?**

What agreement has the temple of God with idols? **For** we are the temple of the living God; as God said, ‘I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **(2 Corinthians 6:16)**

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? **You are not your own.** **(1 Corinthians 6:19)**

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but **you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.** **(Ephesians 2:19)**

¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but **present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.** **(Romans 6:11–13)**

III. Cleanse Yourself from This Yoke

For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, 'I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.' Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

(2 Corinthians 6:16–7:1)

Therefore **go out from their midst, and be separate from them**, says the Lord, and **touch no unclean thing**; then I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.

(2 Corinthians 6:17–18)

As he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.' And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile. **(1 Peter 1:15–17)**

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. **(2 Corinthians 7:1)**

Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. **(2 Corinthians 6:1)**

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! **(2 Corinthians 13:5)**

A. Christ Must Be Your Savior

For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. **(2 Corinthians 4:5–6)**

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. **(Romans 6:22–23)**

B. Sanctification Requires Radical Action

Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them... and touch no unclean thing. **(2 Corinthians 6:17)**

I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.
(Matthew 5:28–30)

C. Perfect Holiness Is Found Only in Christ

“Holiness is Christ, our Sanctification, enthroned as Life of our life. It is Christ, the Holy One, in us, living, speaking, walking.” (A. W. Tozer)

And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’
(1 Corinthians 1:30–31)

I. Understand what this yoke is

II. See the absurdity of this yoke

III. Cleanse yourself from this yoke