

Passion, Principle, & Promise

2nd Corinthians 6:11-7:3

Recap:

- -Worldly
- -Unimpressed With Paul
- -Confused about ministry and purpose

2 Corinthians = A Call to be a
Counter-Cultural-Cruciform Community

[11] O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open.

[12] You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections.

[13] Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open.

[14] Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

[15] And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

[16] And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

[17] Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

[18] "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.

[1] Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

[2] Open your hearts to us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have cheated no one.

[3] I do not say this to condemn; for I have said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together.

Chapter 6 RECAP

- 9 trials, in 3 sets of 3 each (6:4–5)
- 9 inner qualities (6–7)
- 9 pairs of paradoxes (8–10)

Three Worldly Separation Arguments

6:11-13 - The argument from passion

6:14-16 - The argument from principle

6:17-7:3 - The argument from promise

6:11-13 - The argument from passion

A fatherly command for reciprocal affection - you love the wrong things!

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Truth in Love (1 Cor. 4:15; 2 Cor. 11:1; Eph. 4:15)
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Fatherly Love (1 Cor. 4:14; 1 Thess. 2:11.)

Problem: Lack of love, openness, fellowship, and holiness.

Reason: Rival suitors vied for their affections and allegiance

Separation not Isolation...

"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,"

- Philippians 1:9-10 NKJV

6:14-16 - The argument from principle

Yoked like Moses?

Five Rhetorical Contrast Questions

6:14-16 - The argument from *principle* **Yoked** - Moses' admonition in OT **OT** - Lev. 19:19; 26:11–12; Deut. 7:3;
22:9-10

Compare to Jesus Matt. 11:28-30+ NT - 2 Co 6:16; 1 Co 7:3; 8:10; 10:14; 15:33; Rom. 12:2

Do not be bound together with unbelievers: Ex 34:16; Lev 19:19; De 7:2,3; 22:9-11; Ezr 9:1-12; 10:19; Ne 13:1-3, 23-26; Ps 106:35; Pr 22:24; Mal 2:11, 15; 1Co 5:9; 7:39; 15:33; Jas 4:4

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What partnership does righteousness
have with lawlessness: 1Sa 5:2, 3 1Ki
18:21; 2Ch 19:2; Ps 16:3; 26:4-10;
44:20, 21; 101:3-5; 119:63; 139:21, 22;
Pr 29:27; Joh 7:7 15:18, 19; Ac
4:23; 1Co 10:21; Eph 5:6-11;
1Jn3:12-14
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What fellowship has light with darkness:

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Pr 8:18, 19; Ro 13:12-14; Eph 4:17-20; 5:8-14; Php 2:15; 1Th 5:4-8; 1Pe 2:9, 10; 4:2-4; 1 Jn 1:5-7
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God's love is protective and possessive
like a father or husband
Jer 3:14,19;31:1; Isa 54:5; Hos 1:9-10;
2:14, 20; John 1:12; Ro 8:14-17, 29; 2
Cor 11:2,3; Gal 3:26; 4:5-7; Eph 1:5; 1Jn
3:1-2; Rev 21:7
Cannot serve two masters
Matthew 6:24; James 4:4
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"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." - Matthew 11:28–30

Five Rhetorical Contrast Questions

- 1. righteousness/unrighteousness
- 2. light/darkness
- 3. Christ/Belial
- 4. believer/unbeliever
- 5. temple of God/idols

- Ezekiel 37:26-27 (I will dwell in them and walk among them cf. Lev 26:12)
- Isaiah 52:11 (Come out from among them and be separate... do not touch what is unclean).
- (Exod. 29:45; Isa. 42:11; Ezek. 20:34; 2 Sam. 7:14;. Jer. 31:9; Isa. 63:6)

Takeaways

- 1. Separate not from men, but from evil.
- 2. It's more about influence than presence.
- 3. Consider: Fellowship, communion, accord, part, agreement... with whom?
- 4. Be new creations, set apart ones.

6:16-7:3 - The argument from promise

A Promised Father from Jeremiah 31:9

The **Promise** of being with us and in us: Matt 1:23; 28:18-20; Eph. 2:22; Rev

21:3-5

Revelation 21:3-5 NKJV

[3] And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

[4] "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." [5] Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

"God promises to bless those who keep themselves pure. Worldliness is subtle; it creeps in gradually. -

-This downhill progression begins in friendship with the world (James 4:4); then love for the world (1 John 2:15-17); then conformity to the world (Rom. 12:1-2.

-But God promises to bless those who will separate themselves unto Him (Isa. 52:11).

The compromising Christian loses the enjoyment of God's love and a deeper fellowship in the Spirit."

- Warren Wiersbe

6:17-7:3 - Be separate, Be Holy, Be His

From Isaiah 52:11, Ezekiel 20:34, 41

Jesus prayed the same for His own (Matt. 16:6, 11; John 17:14–17)

"A man cannot accept reconciliation with God and live in sin; because the renunciation of sin is involved in the acceptance of reconciliation. Paul never assumes that men may accept one benefit of redemption, and reject another. They cannot take pardon and refuse sanctification." (Hodge)

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