

Guard Your Affections
June 5, 2022

FBC MISSION: Seeking to honor God by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus who love, live, and share Him.

Memory Verse for June: Psalm 31:11-12

Text: 2 Corinthians 6:11-7:1

Introduction:

Big Idea: There are some things that are fundamentally _____. Guard your affections by guarding your entanglements and influences.

1. The real _____ (11-13)

- Paul is addressing interpersonal conflict and a misunderstanding about the true nature of the Christian life.

2. The _____ (14a)

- “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers”
 - It’s a word picture about what happens when believers allow themselves to be entangled with influences that dampen their affections for Christ.
 - A yoke is a tool used to bind two oxen together.
 - The closest parallel comes from Deuteronomy 22:10 “You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together.”

Paul’s not saying to get rid of all relationships with unbelievers. He is saying that we are influenced by others, and we should guard those influences so that our affections are not pulled away from God and God’s people.

3. God and sin are _____ (14b-16a)

- Paul asks 5 rhetorical questions (The answer is that these things are fundamentally incompatible)
 - Righteousness vs lawlessness –
 - Light vs darkness –
 - Christ vs Belial (that is Satan) –
 - Believer vs unbeliever –
 - Temple of God vs idols -

4. The _____ of God demand that we be pay attention to our allegiances (16b-18)

- 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, ¹⁸ and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.” ¹ 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.

Truth into Action:

- Inventory your current loyalties and carefully consider their influence in your life.

- Thank God that the Bible tells us what to do as well as what NOT TO DO.
- Choose your influences & alliances wisely!
- Alter any influence or alliances that are not helping you walk in purity and holiness.
- Remember that with God's warning comes His promise.



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

Warm Up: How important is it to listen and act upon good advice? Have you ever made the decision to reject good advice? How did that work for you?

1. What does Paul declare to the Corinthians (v. 11)?
2. Who is withholding affection (v. 12)?
3. What does he ask them to do (v. 13)?
4. What does he tell them not to do (v. 14)?
5. For we are what (v. 16)?
6. What has God already said about this "separateness" (v. 17)?
7. Since we have the promises in 6:16-18, and are the temple of the living God, what should we do (7:1)?
8. To purify yourself from everything that contaminates body and spirit means to separate yourself from ungodly, immoral, and testimony-ruining activities. How do you recognize when you are being contaminated in body and spirit by a relationship or activity?
9. What should you do to keep from being contaminated by that relationship or activity?
10. Consider this: *Flee, don't flirt with corrupting influences of the secular culture. Flirting with it would be considering, "How close can I get to the line of sin without crossing over? Fleeing from it would be "How far away can I get from the line of sin so I am not close enough to cross over." We often put more effort into being "anti-germ" than we do in being "anti-sin." Consider the corrupting influences from the secular culture to be as dangerous to your health as the presence of germs in your space.* (Excerpt from Destin Garner, Bible.org)

Closing Prayer: Father God thank you for making a way for me to live in your presence. Thank you for teaching me about sin and holiness. Help me to take seriously your directives in the passage we study this Sunday.