

2 Corinthians 6 Pt 2 vv11-18

Jesus

- Vv 1-10 Reconciled/New Creation, then...

Immediately Thrust into a War Zone on 3 Fronts

1. **Devil**
2. **Flesh**
3. **World:** Satanic World System

Come out from Among Her

Romans 12:1 [To believers] I beseech you therefore, **brethren**, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And **do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...**

Why are so many Christians being Conformed rather than Transformed?
Miserable/Defeated lives rather than Joy filled/Victorious lives

- **Conformed to the World**
 1. Mental Health Issues
 2. Confusion/Discontentment
 3. Anger/Inability to cope

Taking no responsibility by blaming God/others...

James 1:14 [Don't blame God/Others] **...each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.**

Corinth blamed Paul for their problems

II. Come Out/Be Free

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

4th Letter from Paul to Corinth
We spoke the Word in Truth/Love

Romans 12:9 Let **love be without hypocrisy.**

2 Corinthians 6:4b ...we commended ourselves as ministers of God: 6 by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere [lit. *unhypocritical*] **love...**

Accusation from Corinth to Paul? Your cramping our style/Restricting our freedom
IOWs The children were being told no and didn't like it

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.

Let's get real
I'll put the cookies on the lower shelf

- **We've not restricted you:** Hindered your Spiritual growth
- **You've restricted yourselves** by being led by your own sinful affections

Your Feelings/Emotions led you here
Your bad decisions have stunted your Spiritual Growth

- **Pattern**

1. Hear Word/Wisdom of God
2. Disregard Word/Wisdom of God
3. Reap Consequences then blame others

Refusing to Accept Responsibility became their Automatic Default
Followed by Seeking Validation rather than Truth

Acts 17:21 [83 miles away in Athens] ...all the Athenians **spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.**

Insanity: Doing the same thing over and over expecting different results

We can always find someone who will Approve/Validate our sin
Birds of a Feather lead to a Social Contagion Nightmare

Romans 1:32 ...who, **knowing the righteous judgment** of God, that those who **practice such things** are deserving of death, not only do the same but **also approve of those who practice them.**

Worlds fix: Blame others/Continue in misery and self-pity
God's fix: Listen to My Word/Do it and be Free

- **Paul continues:** First of all...

The people you hang with/Listen to/Get advice from
Are dragging you down...

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.

Deuteronomy 2:10 "You shall **not plow with an ox and a donkey** together

- **Yoke:** Wooden restraint over both necks
- 2 Yoked but **Only one can lead...**

Do not Partner w/Unbelievers
They will lead you in the wrong direction every time

14b ...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?

Exactly what the Corinthians didn't want to hear
Exactly what the Corinthians needed to hear

Romans 12:2 ...do not be conformed to this world...

Do not be Unequally Yoked w/the People/Things of this World

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Corinth was Defeated: Listening to the wrong voices

1 John 4:5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.

Worldly Advice Parrots the Wicked One who seeks our Destruction
Why do we listen to/obey those who do not have the Spirit of God?

- Psychologists/Therapists
- Life Coaches/Youtubers
- Professors/Bloggers
- Unsaved friends/family...Anyone that will tell us what we want to hear

Gen 3. Did God really say? Yes...He did say

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest anyone, according to the tradition of men, cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:19 ...the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"...

Worldly Wisdom is from the Mind of the Devil; i.e. Ruler of the World
John 12:31

1 John 5:19 ... the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

Christians are Seeking Life among the Dead
Look at the lives of those you listened to 5 yrs ago...

1 Corinthians 1:20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

Our vessel is safe *in the water*

John 17:15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

When the water gets into the boat...that's a problem

Are we allowing the Satanic World System into our minds?

Home/Church/Families: We are supposed to be in the world *not of the world*

The World is Run by a Tyrant who Hates Us
And you're listening to him on YouTube?

We have been Reconciled to God/Become a New Creation
We are no longer citizens of this Satanic World System

Philippians 3:19 [Some are enemies of the Cross] ...whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who **set their mind on earthly things**. 20 For **our citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

The world is going bye-bye...

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the **world is passing away, and the lust of it**; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

- **Anti:** Against OR **in the place of**. IOWs

What's taking the place of the Wisdom of God your life?
The wisdom of the world is filled with empty promises...

Jeremiah 2:13 "For My people have committed **two evils**: They have **forsaken Me**, the fountain of **living waters**, And **hewn themselves cisterns**—broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Jeremiah 7:8 "Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit..."

James 3:15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

Why partner w/a world not our home?
Why grieve the Holy Spirit by hanging onto that which He hates?

16b ...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.**" C.f. Ex 29:45/Lev26:12/Jer 31:33,32:38/Ez 37:26 Zec 8:8

Paul Quotes 4 Awesome OT Promises now Fulfilled

God will dwell in His people by His Spirit

- **Triune God:** Father/Son/Holy Spirit. One God revealed in Three Persons

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God the Father and God the Son
He is the Almighty God who Dwells in Us

John 14:17 ...the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for **He dwells with you and will be in you.**

1 Corinthians 3:16 ...you are the temple of God and that the **Spirit of God dwells in you?**

2 Timothy 1:14 [Kept] ...by the **Holy Spirit who dwells in us.**

We tempt God/Grieve His Spirit in us when we seek/follow the world's advice

Ephesians 4:30 ...do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God...

Paul speaks the Truth in Love...
Make no alliances w/things/people that draw you away from Jesus

Is this Restriction? This is Freedom

We have Victory over the Tyranny of the World System
Greed/Deception/Emptiness

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

- Lots wife turned back to the world and was assaulted

Come out from the World's View: Education/Marriage/Sex/Parenting/Truth
Don't hover between Heaven and Earth. Be Decisive.

1 Kings 18:21 [Elijah] "How long will you **falter between two opinions?** If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." **But the people answered him not a word.**

Joshua 24:15 But as for **me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**

Stay away from what is unclean. Then I will receive you
Obedience to God's Word: Special manifestation of/Closer intimacy with God

Will not happen seeking elsewhere. So, Who are you listening to?
If not the Holy Spirit/Word of God you are being Enticed/Deceived

Ephesians 5:6 Let no one **deceive you with empty words,** for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore **do not be partakers with them ... 11** And have **no fellowship** with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

Voices of the World want Clicks, Likes, Subscriptions, Fame, Riches, Recognized as nice

Not what's best for our eternal soul...IOWs the World/Ruler hate us

Corinth was not seeking Truth but Validation
Big Question: Are we seeking Truth or Validation?

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come [and is now here] when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers...

Isaiah 8:19 ...when they say to you, "Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter," **should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? 20 To the law and to the testimony!** If they do not speak according to this word, it is because **there is no light in them.**

▪ **Example of seeking Validation over Truth:**

1. How many YouTube videos list the characteristics of a Narcissist?
2. Marriage partner clicks/All happen to match the partner they seek to divorce
3. Big lie: We're all Narcissists/Adamic nature. Lie Justifies divorce? Satan wins
4. **Truth is...**

Bad feeling-based world validated decisions are why your miserable
The people you hang with/listen to/take advice from...can't even help themselves

Be decisive. Come out. Be Separate. Come to Me. I will receive you
Enjoy the benefits of the family of God

Living as Sons and Daughters of the Living God
Relishing in His Wisdom/Truth/Light/Enjoying a Sound Transformed Mind

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

Revelation 21:7 ... I will be his God and he shall be My son.

John 1:12 ...as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become **children of God,** to those who believe in His name...

Freedom in Being/Acting as Sons/Daughter of the Living God
Being who we were always created to be

Galatians 4:5 [Jesus came] ...to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the **adoption as sons.** 6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, **"Abba, Father!"** 7 Therefore you are **no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called **children of God!**

I will be a Father and you will be My sons and daughters! This is what God offered the Corinthians and yet they were settling for false hope in empty words from other broken people who were happy to validate what was killing them because they themselves were doing the very same things. Come out from among them and be free! [NJC]

- Be vulnerable. Real. Teachable. Listen to sound biblical council even when it hurts

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

World's Default then/now? If it/they cause you to be uncomfortable....Run
Result: Fragile/Weak/Confused/Angry/Easily Offended/Self-deceived People

Even Oysters need Healthy Friction to produce a Pearl: The vital, often uncomfortable process of Christian fellowship, where believers refine each other's character through close interaction, mentorship, and **mutual challenge**...True spiritual growth **requires this friction** to move from weak faith to mature character. Hence the usefulness of Christian association, and hence also the evil of sinful company, for one sinner sharpens another to do mischief, just as **one saint encourages another to righteousness**. [Spurgeon]

Romans 12:1 ... present your bodies a **living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And **do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...**

2 Timothy 1:7 ...God has not given us a spirit of fear, **but of power and of love and of a sound mind.**

Come out from among the confusion/Give yourself wholly to Jesus
Trust God that He alone knows best. Ask Him what to do next...

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and **it will be given to him.**

Stop Blaming/Start living/Eager and Willing to allow God to change you/Heal you
Be Immersed in the Word of God alone /Expect Him to speak

After all you are Sons and Daughters of the Father

2 Corinthians 7:1

Therefore, having these promises, beloved Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God