

2 Corinthians 6:11 Our mouth has spoken freely to you, O Corinthians, our heart is opened wide.

¹² You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own affections.

¹³ Now in a like exchange—I speak as to children—open wide to us also.

¹⁴ Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

¹⁵ Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

¹⁶ Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

¹⁷ "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And 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.

2 Corinthians 7:1 (NASB) Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Review:

1. We have the true message of life
 - a. Ours beliefs did not originate w/ man
 - b. We have the answer the world needs
 - c. We have a responsibility to share it w/ the world
 - d. Be careful how you live – so personal life doesn't ruin the message
2. The Christian life isn't easy
 - a. It is a great paradox
 - b. But it is worth it all
3. Tonight we come to a strange portion of Scripture
 - a. Some critics believe this has been added after Paul's letter was finished
 - b. Some believe it is Paul's writing – but from another letter that was added to this letter
 - c. But it fits perfectly w/ rest of Scripture
 - d. We know that this is the most personal letter Paul wrote

6:11 Our mouth has spoken freely to you, O Corinthians, our heart is opened wide.

1. "our heart is opened wide"

a. "opened" – verb

i. Perfect tense

1. Couldn't be more open ever

ii. Passive voice

1. God put the love (for them) in Paul

b. Look at who they were

i. They had divided the body by making heroes of certain leaders

1 Corinthians 3:3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

⁴ For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not mere men?

ii. They were bragging about being open minded when it came to immorality

1 Corinthians 5:1 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.

² You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.

iii. They were suing each other in court

1 Corinthians 6:1 Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints?

iv. Some of them had gone back to worshipping demons again

1 Corinthians 10:20 No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons.

²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.

- i. Some were getting drunk at the Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:20 Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper,

²¹ for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk.

²² What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.

- ii. But God gave Paul a deep love for those people

V.12 You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own affections.

- 1. "but you are restrained in your own affections"

- a. Why were they w/holding themselves from Paul?

- i. They weren't honest w/ Paul b/c of sin & guilt

V.13 Now in a like exchange—I speak as to children—open wide to us also.

- 1. "I speak as to children—open wide to us also"

- a. Paul says I'm speaking to you as a father

- i. He was their spiritual father

- ii. He knows why they aren't being open w/ him **V.14**

V.14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

- 1. "Do not be bound together with unbelievers"

- a. This is not an excuse to get out of a bad marriage

- i. Don't leave your spouse if you are married to unbeliever

1 Corinthians 7:12 But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her.

¹³ And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send

her husband away.

V.15 Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace.

V.14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

1. "Do not be bound together"

a. "bound together" – unequally yoked

i. Comes from O.T.

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

1. Different types of animals can't work as a team

2. "what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness"

a. "partnership" – participation, sharing, camaraderie

b. "righteousness" – In a broadest sense – that which is acceptable to God

c. "lawlessness" – violation of law, without law, wickedness, iniquity, unrighteousness

3. "what fellowship has light with darkness"

a. This ratchets up the level togetherness

i. "fellowship" – κοινωνία – communion, intimate fellowship

b. "Light with darkness"

i. Light & dark don't mix

V.15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

1. "what harmony has Christ with Belial"

a. "Belial" – used of Satan

b. "harmony"

i. Made of 2 words – σύν (same) & φωνή (sound) = symphony

1. What music can Christ & Satan play together

2. "what has a believer in common with an unbeliever"

a. It doesn't say "in common with" an unbeliever

i. It says literally "a believer w/ an unbeliever"

ii. So, it is saying how can a believer harmonize w/ an unbeliever?

V.16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

1. "what agreement has the temple of God with idols"

a. "agreement" – to vote in accord with

i. Word is used in Luke

Luke 23:50 And a man named Joseph, who was a member of the Council, a good and righteous man⁵¹ (he had not consented to their plan and action), a man from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who was waiting for the kingdom of God;
⁵² this man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

b. It literally says – "how can you vote just like someone you disagree with?"

1. "what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God"

a. "...the temple of God..."

i. "Temple" – ναός – "sanctuary" – you are the sanctuary of God

1. Temple is singular – together we make the sanctuary of God

2. Here is something to consider

Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

1. While we can't get together as a body of believers if you are comfortable meeting w/ another family, etc. consider getting w/ them on Sunday morning & worshipping together

ii. "idol" – means idol – that which the world worships

iii. How can the sanctuary of God vote the way idols of the world vote?

1. Where does personal **Entertainment** fall into that?

V.16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

2. "just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM"

a. Quote from O.T.

Exodus 25:8 "Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them.

Ezekiel 37:27 "My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.

b. And quote from N.T.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.

c. This is a comforting thought

i. How does it feel to have the One in control of everything dwelling w/ you?

3. "AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE"

a. "walk among them"

Revelation 2:1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

i. The golden lampstands are the Churches/Church

b. There is an intimacy – a closeness – a holiness (as in holy place) in where we are – who we are – a supernatural element of your being

i. You reside in His shadow

c. Therefore we are to be different **V.17**

V.17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you."

1. "COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE"

a. Quote from Isaiah

Isaiah 52:11 Depart, depart, go out from there,
Touch nothing unclean; Go out of the midst of her,
purify yourselves, You who carry the vessels of the
LORD.

b. "be separate" – imperative mood – a command

i. "Separate" - ἀπό (away from) & ὀρίζω (to mark out or declare)
(horizon)

ii. There is to be a point demarcation between your thinking & the
world's thinking – different attitude!

c. Enjoying God's presence requires personal holiness

d. A believer has to think about the relationships before they get into
them

i. We are not to be careless

ii. It requires prayer

2. "DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you"

a. In another study we looked at religion & rules for rules sake

Colossians 2:20 If you have died with Christ to the
elementary principles of the world, why, as if you
were living in the world, do you submit yourself to
decrees, such as,

²¹ "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!"

²² (which all refer to things destined to perish with
use)—in accordance with the commandments and
teachings of men?

b. Here Paul is saying we don't do certain things b/c of we are the
sanctuary of God

i. There is a desire to live a pure life instead of wallowing in filthy

1. A pig wallows in mud b/c it is a pig

c. This is more about mental attitudes than actions

i. We are in the world & we are supposed to function in the world

1 Corinthians 5:9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people;

¹⁰ I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world.

V.18 "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

1. "And I will be a father to you"

a. God is your Father if you are a believer

b. He wants to be able to act like your Father: guide, direct, teach, encourage, strengthen, comfort

i. He wants that intimate relationship

Galatians 4:6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

1. But sometimes of His children won't allow it

7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

1. "perfecting holiness in the fear of God"

a. It isn't just staying away from evil but working toward sanctification

Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

¹⁴ who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.