

THE UNEQUAL YOKE

Text: 2 Corinthians 6:14-16

Intro: In our text Paul speaks of an unequal yoke. His illustration is drawn from Deut. 22:10, "You shall not plow with an ox and donkey together."

I. THE UNEQUAL YOKE, vs. 14-16.

A. This passage does not forbid all association with unbelievers. Jesus, Matt. 9:11; 1 Cor. 5:10

Matt 9:11, The Pharisees ...said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

1 Cor 5:10, Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

B. The passage clearly *does* forbid all relationships that would jeopardize our fellowship with God.

II. THEREFORE COME OUT..., VS. 17-18.

A. Realize that the time will come when you will have to part company with unbelievers, lawbreakers, etc.--or else you will part company with God.

B. Purpose in your heart--decide beforehand--that you will do what is right. It will not necessarily be *easy* or *convenient* or *popular*. It will not be without cost. You may lose friends. You may lose face. But at all costs, don't lose your soul.

Dan. 1:8, But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank...

C. Count the cost, Luke 14:28.

1. Moses did, Heb. 11:24-26.

2. Joseph, Gen. 39:7-9.

3. You, too, can maintain your fellowship--your

sharing of a dwelling with God. You *must* do so at all cost--because the cost of not doing so is greater by far.

III. THEREFORE, HAVING THE PROMISE OF SONSHIP...7:1.

A. Get rid of the wrong.

1. Cleanse self of defilement of the flesh. David Thomas: Sin "is not nature, it is a stain on nature; it is not something inwrought into the very texture of our being, otherwise it could not be cleansed away. It is no more ourselves than the soil on the white robe is the robe. It can, it should, it must, be washed out, that we may appear 'without spot or wrinkle.'"

Js. 4:8, Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

2. Also cleanse yourself of defilement of the spirit.

B. Attain the right.

1. Perfecting (maturing, completing) holiness.
2. In fear of God. There are 2 kinds of fear.
 - a. Respect.
 - b. Terror. Proper respect eliminates terror

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