

Unequally yoked?

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Beilal? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1).

This idea is found in the Old Testament. “Ye shall keep my statutes. Thou shalt not let thy cattle gender with a diverse kind: thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed: neither shall a garment mingled of lined and woolen come upon thee: (Leviticus 19:19). Also, “Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together” (Deuteronomy 22:10). Also the idea is presented in the New Testament in another place, “Be no ye therefore partakers with them” (Ephesians 5:7).

The yoke that is mentioned in the 2 Corinthians 6 verse is that kind of yoke that is used to place animals together to do some kind of work. The idea is that you do not yoke animals of a different kind together. You do not mix horses and oxen. You do not mix donkeys with cattle. They do not pull the same nor do they work the same way.

If one will read the context and notice what is being said, it will help with the application of the passage. Paul is speaking by inspiration, says we are not to be “unequally yoked” together. One wonders if we can be “equally yoked” together?

But one wonders if this passage applies to marriage? It is good for a Christian to marry a Christian. I know of some preachers who will not marry nor will the participate in a marriage with a Christian and a non-Christian. We must be careful in all of this, for what does the Bible say in this matter? Some will say that the passage in 2 Corinthians 6 settles the matter, but is that all the Bible has to say about the matter? No it is not.

In 1 Corinthians 7 Paul address some questions that had be asked of him by those of Corinth. “Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me...” (1 Corinthians 7:1). Questions were asked and now the answers follow in this chapter. As a side note, some will say that not all that Paul

says in this chapter is inspired. But that is not correct. Paul would state later on in this epistle, “If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 14:37). So Paul is speaking by inspiration in all of this letter. Paul address that fact that some Christians have married non-Christians, “But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy” (1 Corinthians 7:12-14). So if Paul is addressing the issue of a believer is married to a non-believer how can some person state that it is wrong?

Now let us understand something about a Christian marrying a nonChristian. It is not wise for this to happen. Marriage is hard enough without difference of religion being part of the problem. There will be countless of Christians who have married nonChristians tell about how hard it is, but that does not make it wrong. There are Christians that have married nonChristians and have converted them through the process of time. These individuals have been assets to the church throughout the ages. Some have become elders, others deacons, some Bible class teachers, other even preachers. So for someone to state that it is wrong it to overstate what the Bible says.

We are to be going by what the Bible says and not what some man or men say. Let the Bible be our guide in all things religious. Love, Keith

Those serving...Next Sunday

Song Leading
Scripture Reading
Opening Prayer
Lord's Supper

Closing Prayer
Announcements/Invitation

Don Evans
Jonathan Evans
Calvin McCoy
Perry Sims(P)
Clyde Hill, Jerry Shepherd, Zane Whatley,
John Hughes, Timmy Thomas, John Thomason
Keith Dixon
Larry Eldridge

BULLETIN INFORMATION

If there is something that needs to be put in the bulletin please email Crissy at trudyblue1@yahoo.com. Please get this info to her before Thursday evening. You can also text her with info at 706-206-8514