

"Paul's Partnership with the Gospel"**Part 9****2 Corinthians 6:1-7:1**

Introduction: Last week in our study we looked at a command which Paul gave to the believers at Corinth.

Notice 2 Corinthians 6:14a

The believers at Corinth had allowed the Judaizers to be a part of the church in the sense they were given a platform to teach their false doctrine. The Judaizers were not saved and so they were not a part of the body of Christ but they were permitted to join the gatherings of the Corinthians and to have a place of influence within the church. From what Paul commands the Corinthians in this verse I believe we can conclude that they were permitted to serve within the church. The Corinthian believers were yoked together with these unbelievers. This unequal yoke had caused the believers to withhold love from Paul because the unbelieving false teachers were set against Paul. The bottom line was they needed to separate because the unbelievers were pulling the believers down.

Application:

This is exactly what happens in the lives of believers today that are unequally yoked in marriage, business partnerships, or worship and service to the Lord. Last week we looked at Paul's thinking here and how he was thinking about Deuteronomy 22.

Deuteronomy 22:10

¹⁰ *Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together.*

Under the Law it was forbidden to plow with two animals with two different natures. This is exactly what Paul has in mind in 2 Corinthians 6. The believer and the unbeliever have two different natures which mean they will pull in two different directions.

Now last week we also considered the fact that this is not a command to completely withdraw from the world. We must have contact with the world in order to reach them with the Gospel. However we must be very careful. We can abstain from unequal yokes and yet at the same time we can run with the wrong crowd and their influence will pull us away from God.

1 Corinthians 15:33

³³ *Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*

Let me show you what friendship with the wrong people can cause. I want to step you into the life of Jacob.

Genesis 33:17

¹⁷ *And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built him an house, and made booths for his cattle: therefore the name of the place is called Succoth.*

Jacob had just met with Esau and now that his meeting with Esau is over he seems to relax and drop his guard. Here in this verse we can see that he built himself a HOUSE. The other Patriarchs dwelled in tents so they could move when God called but here we see Jacob became rooted in. Now let me show you what happened.

Genesis 34:1-2

And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land.

² *And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her.*

One night with the wrong crowd and Dinah is defiled!

Now let us get back to 2 Corinthians. As we continue Paul is going to present several reasons for the command which he gave in verse 14a. Let us keep in mind there were probably those within the church who wanted to resist the command to separate and they would have presented their case by stating that they were strong enough to withstand any evil influence. This is the very same response by believers today who are confronted with this command especially when it cuts into their personal lives. Let us notice one verse as a warning then we shall get back into our text.

1 Corinthians 10:12

¹² *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

I. Paul's Reasoning

Notice 2 Corinthians 6:14

Paul's points of reasoning are presented in questions designed to cause the reader to think. The first 2 points of reason deal with the nature of the believer and unbeliever.

1. What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?

It does not take very long after a believer enters into an unequal yoke, whether it be a marriage or a business partnership or another situation, shortly into the agreement they will be faced with the temptation to compromise their righteous standards which God has commanded them to follow. It is inevitable because God's morals and standards are far higher and holier than this world's standards.

For any believer to enter into an unequal yoke places them in a situation where they have absolutely nothing in common spiritually with the other individual. The unbeliever is controlled by their flesh and they follow after the desires of the flesh. The believer on the other hand is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and he desires to follow God in obedience. Therefore there is a clash of the 2 natures and both desire something different and so to keep the harmony within the family or the business there must be a compromise and 99% of the time it is the believer who compromises.

Last week we considered briefly the man Lot who lived in Sodom and we considered how the surroundings troubled his righteous soul.

2 Peter 2:7-8

⁷ *And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:*

⁸ *(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)*

There was no peace and no fellowship in Lot's life. The question is why did not remain in the city? The answer is, "He desired the money which he could make."

Let me give you a glimpse of where Lot worked.

Genesis 19:1

And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom; and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;

Lot sat in the gate of the city. The gate was the political center of the city and when we are told he "sat" that means he held a position. He was involved in the politics of the city and we can only assume that he probably fought for the "gay rights" movement. But it paid really well and so he could provide for his family. But the material provisions had no eternal value. They may have had beautiful homes and all the luxuries to along with it but they had no morals. Remember what happened after the angels pulled them from the city?

Genesis 19:30-32, 36

³⁰ *And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters.*

³¹ *And the firstborn said unto the younger, Our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth:*

³² *Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father.*

³⁶ *Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father.*

These verses show the depravity of Lot's daughters. Here is the point we need to grasp. Lot was a miserable man because he had entered into an unequal yoke with the people of Sodom. He troubled his soul because Lot and the people of the city of Sodom had nothing spiritually in common. Then along with his troubled soul was the sad spiritual condition of his family. His choice to enter into an unequal yoke affected many people close to him. In this world he is forever known as the man who had to be dragged from Sodom.

Let us go back to the point of reason again. The word "unrighteousness" means "lawlessness". In other words Paul is saying that the unsaved live in disobedience to the Word of God. Let me show you the contrast between a believer and the unbeliever.

The Believer:**1 John 2:3-6**

³ *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.*

⁴ *He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

⁵ *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

⁶ *He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*

One of the marks of a TRUE believer is obedience to the Word of God.

The Unbeliever:**Matthew 7:22-23**

²² *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

²³ *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

The phrase "ye that work iniquity" means "you who live like there is no Bible". Unbelievers have no desire to live in the boundaries of God's Word so how could an unbeliever and a believer ever have common spiritual ground in a relationship?

2. What communion hath light with darkness?

Light and darkness cannot exist together. When light comes into a room the darkness flees away. The 2 can never be mixed together. Let us notice a few verses.

John 12:36

³⁶ *While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.*

Ephesians 5:8

⁸ *For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:*

1 Thessalonians 5:5

⁵ *Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*

These verses make it very clear that as believers we are children of the Light. Remember what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount?

Matthew 5:14a

¹⁴ *Ye are the light of the world.*

As children of the Light we must not become yoked together with those of the darkness. There can be NO COMMUNION between light and darkness and there can be no spiritual communion between the saved and the lost.

1 Peter 2:9

⁹ *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

Notice 2 Corinthians 6:15

Here is the 3rd question and it deals with who is Lord of our lives.

3. What concord hath Christ with Belial?

This question is very sharp and when understood it can cut deeply but it needs to be considered.

The word "concord" is the very word which we get the word "symphony" from. Now in order to have a symphony there needs to be harmony between the instruments and the musicians. If there is no harmony there can be no symphony.

Illustration:

One day I was in a school which we were working on and the Junior High band was warming up. I have never heard such sounds! It was terrible because everyone was playing something different. There was absolutely no harmony.

The same problem presents itself when there is an unequal yoke. There is no spiritual harmony. The name "Belial" here in the verse is another name for Satan.

We who know Jesus Christ are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. He was given to us the moment we were saved and He continues to live within us. We are to surrender to Jesus Christ as the Lord of our lives and it is then that the Holy Spirit lives the life of Christ in and through us.

The unsaved person is NOT indwelt by the Holy Spirit. When Jesus spoke to the unsaved religious leaders of His day in John 8 he used very sharp words.

John 8:44

⁴⁴Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

We who are believers are children of God, indwelt by the Holy Spirit but the unbeliever's father is Satan. So when there is an unequal yoke you then have a child of God and a child of Satan yoked together. We therefore can understand how they would pull in opposite directions. There can be no spiritual harmony at all!

4. What part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

The word "infidel" here refers to an unbeliever and in detail it refers to a person who has absolutely no trust in God. The idea here in this verse is that the unbeliever and the believer are completely opposite. God asked a question to Israel in the book of Amos that fits very well here.

Amos 3:3

³ Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Conclusion:

We are going to stop here for tonight and finish this section next week. I want to leave you with an illustration.

Years ago when I was working in construction there was a product which we often had to work with called Karnac. It was a water proofing product which had to be applied to a block wall before the brick were installed over the block wall. I despised the job of applying the Karnac. It was black like tar and thin like water. It was applied with a brush back then and no matter how careful you were it always got on your clothing and usually in your car. They sometimes supplied paper suits to wear when applying the product but it made no difference. You may think you escaped without any on your clothing or skin but when you started to look there was always a stain.

This is exactly what happens when a believer gets involved in an unequal yoke. They may try their best to be careful but it is impossible to come away unstained. That is why the command is here in verse 14!