

**"Paul's Partnership with the Gospel"**

**Part 10**

**2 Corinthians 6:1-7:1**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of 2 Corinthians we were looking at the words of Paul as he gave reasons for the command which he gave to the Corinthian believers.

**Notice 2 Corinthians 6:14a**

This is one of the most important commands given to believers. There have been many believers who have not submitted to this command and for that reason they have experienced great heartache over the years.

The Corinthians whom Paul was writing to were yoked together with unbelievers in several ways and it was affecting their spiritual walk. Their unequal yoke was causing them to withhold love from Paul and it was hindering them from manifesting Jesus Christ in their lives. Paul knew that if they continued to be unequally yoked they would not grow spiritually but instead they would go backward in their spiritual walk. This is why Paul gave the command in verse 14a.

Paul also knew that when they received this letter there was the possibility that some of them would resist the command. So he gave reasons why believers should never be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.

**I. Paul's Reasoning**

**Part 2**

Paul began his reasoning by pointing to the different natures of the believer and the unbeliever.

**Notice 2 Corinthians 6:14**

- 1. What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?**
- 2. What communion hath light with darkness?**

The word "unrighteousness" means "lawlessness". The believer desires to walk in the light of God's Word but the unbeliever lives in direct rebellion against the Word of God. Light and darkness cannot exist together and so the idea here is the believer and the unbeliever

have 2 different natures. How then can there be any fellowship or any communion? There is NO COMMON SPIRITUAL GROUND.

Paul continues with his reasoning by pointing to the leaders in the lives of the believer and the unbeliever.

**Notice 2 Corinthians 6:15**

**3. What concord hath Christ with Belial?**

The word "concord" is the word which we get the word 'symphony" from. There can be no harmony between the believer and the unbeliever because the believer is a child of God and the unbeliever is a child of the Devil. The name Belial here means "worthless" and it is a name given to Satan.

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

The word "infidel" here 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.

**Amos 3:3**

<sup>3</sup> *Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*

This now brings us to where we are tonight.

**5. What agreement hath the Temple of God with idols?**

In order to understand this verse we need to understand what some of the Corinthians were involved in.

**1 Corinthians 10:14-25**

<sup>14</sup> *Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.*

<sup>15</sup> *I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.*

<sup>16</sup> *The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?*

<sup>17</sup> *For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.*

<sup>18</sup> *Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?*

<sup>19</sup> *What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?*

<sup>20</sup> *But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, **they sacrifice to devils**, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.*

<sup>21</sup> *Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.*

<sup>22</sup> *Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?*

<sup>23</sup> *All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.*

<sup>24</sup> *Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.*

<sup>25</sup> *Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake:*

In Corinth there were many temples built to false gods so the city was deep into idolatry. This is what the Corinthians were saved out of. They also had friends and family who were unsaved and still involved in the worship of idols. So what was happening was some of the believers were following their friends and their family members right back into the idol temples. They had not made a clean break. When they were invited to attend a feast held for the idols they accepted the invitation. Paul therefore made it very clear that they were drinking the cup of devils. They would partake of the Lord's Table and turn around and partake of the table of the devils or the demons. Let us remember that where there is idolatry the demons will attach themselves to the idol and gain influence over the mind of the worshipper. Let me show you one of the areas which the Corinthians were failing in.

### **Luke 14:26-27**

<sup>26</sup> *If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.*

<sup>27</sup> *And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.*

The Corinthians had trusted Jesus Christ as their Savior but they had not yet allowed Him to be the Lord of their lives. They were still influenced by friends and family. They needed to make a break. They were not expected to abandon their families but they could not join with them in worship!

### **Notice 2 Corinthians 6:16 again.**

The word "agreement" here means "to join together". The point is they could not join the Temple of God (their bodies) with idols. They were the Temple of God for Christ lived within them. So when they went into the temple of the false gods they were placing the

Temple of God in the temple of idols. When they allowed the false teachers who were into idolatry to have a position within the church they were bringing idols into the Temple of God for the false teachers brought their worship and their beliefs with them. We need to notice how God views idolatry in the lives of His people.

**Ezekiel 8:1-18**

*And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I sat in mine house, and the elders of Judah sat before me, that the hand of the Lord GOD fell there upon me.*

*<sup>2</sup> Then I beheld, and lo a likeness as the appearance of fire: from the appearance of his loins even downward, fire; and from his loins even upward, as the appearance of brightness, as the colour of amber.*

*<sup>3</sup> And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy.*

*<sup>4</sup> And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain.*

*<sup>5</sup> Then said he unto me, Son of man, lift up thine eyes now the way toward the north. So I lifted up mine eyes the way toward the north, and behold northward at the gate of the altar this image of jealousy in the entry.*

*<sup>6</sup> He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary? but turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations.*

*<sup>7</sup> And he brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, behold a hole in the wall.*

*<sup>8</sup> Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall: and when I had digged in the wall, behold a door.*

*<sup>9</sup> And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here.*

*<sup>10</sup> So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, pourtrayed upon the wall round about.*

*<sup>11</sup> And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up.*

*<sup>12</sup> Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, the LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth.*

<sup>13</sup> He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do.

<sup>14</sup> Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD's house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.

<sup>15</sup> Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these.

<sup>16</sup> And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.

<sup>17</sup> Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.

Now let us see how Paul pulls all of these thoughts together.

#### **Notice 2 Corinthians 6:16-18**

In these verses Paul reaches back to the Old Testament and he grabs portions of Truth from several books and he grasps onto promises made to the Nation of Israel.

#### **Leviticus 11:44a**

<sup>44</sup> For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy:

#### **Leviticus 26:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> And I set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you.

<sup>12</sup> And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.

#### **Jeremiah 32:37-38**

<sup>37</sup> Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely:

<sup>38</sup> And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:

#### **Isaiah 52:11**

<sup>11</sup> Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD.

**Ezekiel 36:27-28**

*<sup>27</sup> And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*

*<sup>28</sup> And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.*

These are a few of the verses which Paul had in mind but they are promises to Israel and they will find the ultimate fulfillment in the Millennial Kingdom. So why does Paul quote them to the church? The purpose here is absolutely wonderful! While many of the promises pertain to Israel at a future time there are some that also apply to the church now. Some promises are for the "THEN AND THERE" and some are for "THE HERE AND NOW".

**Notice 2 Corinthians 6:16 again.**

God now dwells in us! He is our God and we are His people! We occupy a higher and a holier ground than Israel ever did. The God who told Israel He would dwell with them now dwells in us!!

**Notice 2 Corinthians 6:18 again.**

God desires to be a father to us now. This then raises a question:

Is God not my Father if I am a Christian, even though I am not wholly separated from the world? Notice the words of Ironsides in relation to this question:

*"God is the Father of all believers, but He is a Father unto us only as we walk in obedience to His Word. I am the father of my child, but if he is willful and disobedient I cannot be a father unto him in the sense I would like to be, and so God cannot do what His loving heart yearns to do when we are not walking in obedience to His Word."*

**Conclusion:**

**Notice 2 Corinthians 7:1**

We need to cleanse our FLESH and our SPIRIT. This refers to an inward and an outward cleansing. The end result will be HOLINESS which is separation.