



Should Christians Only Marry Christians?

2 Corinthians 6:14: (NASB) Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?



To be a Christian is perhaps the most amazing privilege in the history of mankind. After all, you are called to walk in the footsteps of the Master; to sacrifice your will, your time and your energy for one short lifetime, and in exchange you will be given an eternity of godly power and wisdom and be used by God Himself to rehabilitate the world from sin and rule along with our Lord Jesus in righteousness! Such privilege certainly comes with guidelines and requirements - well, what are they? How specifically does God through Jesus guide our relationships?

Galatians 6:9-10: (NRSV) *9So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. 10So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family (household) of faith.*

There are many different brands of Christianity today - some that focus primarily on the feeling of the freedom of the teachings of Jesus and the heart relationships, some that focus primarily on the literal and often harshly interpreted words of Jesus and then there are the many variations in between. What we will talk about today does not fit the extremes, but we believe it fits the intention of the heart of Jesus.

The next set of scriptures start to narrow our focus. These are the words of Jesus on the last night before his crucifixion.

John 17:14-17: (NRSV) *14I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 15I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. 16They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 17Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.*

Jesus is saying that he is not only praying for those who were with him but for all of those that would follow him throughout the age. We are included in that prayer. This is amazing. We are supposed to be like him. What could ever make us think that this is easy - that this walk can be customized to fit into our own lives rather than our own lives being shaped to fit the walk of Christianity? If you who are listening believe yourself to be running for this very highest of callings then today's discussion is a "mirror" lesson for you and for me. Am I taking Christianity and fitting it into my life or am I taking my life and fitting it into the walk of Christianity?

Our theme Scriptures: **2 Corinthians 6:11-18: (NASB)**

We will take these verses piece by piece in order to try and hone in on their message.





2 Corinthians 6:11-13: (NASB) *¹¹Our mouth has spoken freely to you, O Corinthians, our heart is opened wide. ¹²You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own affections. ¹³Now in a like exchange—I speak as to children—open wide to us also.*

We are dropping in on the process of the development of the church in Corinth.

Background: 1 Corinthians was written to a church whose priorities were inside out and backwards. They closed their eyes to dark moral sin, while engaging in a sectarian brand of Christianity that welcomed no ecclesia (church)

discipline, a minimizing of the power of fellowship to solve issues, abuses of the Lord's Supper, spiritual pride, misuse of the gifts, and neglect of things most important. Apostle Paul wrote a letter to them to straighten them out.

2 Corinthians was written several years later to a church that had heard and heeded warnings and was well on their way finally to becoming more than just babes in Christ. Paul loved them unconditionally, and here in 2 Corinthians he is asking for them to put away their humanness and embrace him as well. Paul is here giving general admonitions that would have particular significance to the context of their lives and their deeply pagan background.

The Corinthians experience is a perfect picture of Christians being called out from the world today.

Followers and fan, Should a Christian Date a Non-Christian, Jeff and Alyssa Bethke

- *When you read the Gospels you see two groups of people. You see there was crowds gathered to Jesus and then there was disciples gathered to Jesus. What I like to think about that is that you have followers and you have fans. I think I heard someone say that there are a lot of little Christian boys out there, not many men of God who will love and serve and sacrifice and be humble and lift you up and wash your feet metaphorically and physically speaking. With that being said, is that someone you are looking for or are you just settling for someone who maybe says they love Jesus.*

There are a lot of fans of Jesus. A fan will take the principles of Christianity and fit them into their life. To be a *true follower* of Jesus you need to fit your life into the walk of Christ no matter what that might mean. There is a big difference. Are you suiting up for the game or are you just sitting in the stand watching the game?

Our program today was inspired by two separate emails from our listeners. This topic was on their minds. When we hear from you it makes an impact on us, and we feel it was the Lord's will to cover this topic.





So, what does it mean to not be "bound together" with unbelievers?



Here is the basis statement for the Apostle Paul's next lesson:

Three pieces: 1) *do not be* 2) *bound together* 3) *with unbelievers*.

These verses are NOT entirely focused on marriage but have a much broader point, though the marriage application is perhaps the most important as it is the most consuming. Our understanding is that Paul is starting with the most important relationships in your life. It's like the tip of a pyramid and he is going to go through several things. The pyramid is going to get wider or broader as we go. The levels after that will include more and more of the people and relationships that are around you. It will include your relationship with the entire world by the time we are done.

1) *do not be*: 2 Corinthians 6:14: (KJV) *Be ye <1096> not <3361>...*

This is a very similar statement to another that the Apostle Paul uses in several places: (See Bonus Material for more on this!)

Romans 11:1: (KJV) *I say then, Hath God cast away His people? God forbid <3361> <1096>. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.*

Romans 6:15: *What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid <3361> <1096>* (These are the same Greek words as be ye not.)

2) *bound together* - *unequally yoked together <2086> <5723>*

Unequally yoked together: Strong's #2086 eterozugew heterozugeo het-er-od-zoog-eh'-o; to yoke up differently, i.e. (figuratively) to associate discordantly; unequally yoke together with.



To be yoked differently is to imply that you are using the yoke in a way that it was not designed. There is a misfit in the yoking process.

In the Old Testament, they were told not to put two different animals of different strength together in a yoke. Don't join two things together that do not really belong together.



The root word for yoke in the New Testament is always tied to a committed relationship (meaning there are two parties) that requires effort. Marriage is the most committed relationship that requires effort.

John 15:19-20: (NASB) ¹⁹If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. ²⁰Remember the word that I said to you, a slave is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also.

**To WHOM or WHAT
am I tied in a
committed relationship
that requires effort?
Answer this question
with integrity
and it will serve as a
revealing process
towards understanding
our personal efforts
towards sanctification.**





3) with unbelievers

Unbelievers: Strong's #571 apistov apistos ap'-is-tos; (actively) disbelieving, i.e. without Christian faith (specially, a heathen); (passively) untrustworthy (person), or incredible (thing)

How do the Scriptures describe *unbelievers*?

Just two examples:

Matthew 17:17: (KJV) *Then Jesus answered and said, O **faithless** <571> and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you? Bring him hither to me.* (Spoken to a Jewish audience.)

1 Corinthians 6:6: (KJV) *But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the **unbelievers** <571>.* (Spoken to a Pagan audience.)

There can be two basic categories: Jesus called those who were Jews in name only *unbelievers*, and those who were simply outside of the Christian faith were also *unbelievers*.

Two outcomes, *Should a Christian Date a Non-Christian*, Jeff and Alyssa Bethke

- *When you date someone who's not a follower of Jesus, only one of two things happen. The first one is you put God at the center and the person you are dating are always on the outskirts, and you feel like that's separating because you're trying to get closer to God and they can't understand that so you drift. Or he says you put the person at the center of your relationship and then God is on the outskirts, because they don't share that and when you have decisions it makes you drift apart from God. It's only when you are both followers of Jesus can you really put all of you guys at the middle, including Jesus, and say we are on a journey and we're on this together. So, that's what I would say and the last thing too I would say is don't get caught up in or even on top of that whether he says he's a Christian, really look for a disciple of Jesus.*

If we are joining with an unbeliever in marriage and attaching ourselves to someone who does not have our faith then we are attaching ourselves away from the center of what a life of sacrifice is supposed to be. Why would we put ourselves in this position? Christianity is hard enough.





"Men marry women with the hope they will never change. Women marry men with the hope they will change. Invariably they are both disappointed." – Albert Einstein

Partnerships - fellowship - are these reserved only for Christians?



Partnership is different than being yoked together. Partnership is broader. What participation does righteousness (a state of being made right with God) have with lawlessness? (Literally, "illegality" - meaning a state of disfavor with God.) This does not in any way imply that those who are not believers are bad - *they are simply out of favor with God!* If someone is not under the robe of righteousness of Christ then they are a fan and not a follower of Christ.



A caller from Indiana suggests: Israel ended up with idols due to being unequally yoked. What we think is right or fair is not God's way. He has His own fairness and rules, and we prosper when we follow them and we don't prosper when we don't follow them.

Deuteronomy 22:9-10: (NASB) *⁹You shall not sow your vineyard with two kinds of seed, or all the produce of the seed which you have sown and the increase of the vineyard will become defiled. ¹⁰You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together.*

The ox and the donkey are different in size, strength, and temperament. One was considered clean and the other unclean. Israel was plainly taught that separation was a mainstay of their culture and *within* their culture. The Jewish nation was taught at every turn to BE SEPARATE. When they ceased to be SEPARATE, they ceased to be SPIRITUAL.

(Rick): "If you stood me next to Fred (our Board Technician) who is a lot taller and you put us in a yoke, we could probably get the job done but it would be hard and difficult and not according to the design."



So, when we look at this whole subject matter of dealing with the people of the world, the point is that for the most intimate and strongest relationships are we going to choose the guidelines that God gives us or are we going to choose our own? Am I going to be a fan in this area of my life or am I going to be a follower?



So far we have looked at two levels of "togetherness." First, the yoke - fastened together in a long term or permanent relationship. Second, the partnership - agreement of and in action.



...For from it (the heart)
flow the springs of life.

**From the chosen allegiances
of our hearts will flow the
truest destiny of our lives.**

Proverbs 4:23

Relationship Pyramid

"Be Ye Separate" Lesson

For what PARTNERSHIP has
righteousness (*a state of being
made right with God*) and
lawlessness (*a state of disfavor
with God*)

2 Corinthians 6:14

...For from it (the heart)
flow the springs of life.
**From the chosen allegiances
of our hearts will flow the
truest destiny of our lives.**

Proverbs 4:23

...or what fellowship
has light with darkness?

2 Corinthians 6:14

Once the beauty of God's plan touches us, our free moral agency is given authority over what we ultimately do with it. This is a "mirror lesson." I am judged based on the choices that I make.

2 Corinthians 6:14: (NASB) ...or what **fellowship** <2842> has light with darkness?

Fellowship: Strong's #2842 *koinwnia koinonia koy-nohn-ee' ah*; partnership, i.e. (literally) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) (financial) benefaction

What commonality does light have with darkness?



What constitutes light and darkness?

Ephesians 5:6-9: (NASB) *⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not be partakers with them; ⁸for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light ⁹(for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth.)*

These are two clear opposites and an important point: Light is NOT simply good, or nice, or even righteous and honest from the context of this world. *Light is in relation to spirituality.* If you are a follower of Christ (not just a fan), we need to be focusing on the light of spirituality.

Isaiah 60:1-3: (NASB) *¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. (The light is God's light) ²For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; But the LORD will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you. (The glory is God's glory) ³Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

Nations will come to the light: The light does not, cannot mingle with the darkness!



Third level of “togetherness” - Fellowship - agreement in principle



Put away from you
a deceitful mouth and
put devious speech far from you.

**What our heart wants,
our heart will try to get.**

Proverbs 4:24

When our desires and allegiances are outside the realm of God's light, we rationalize - we explain away true spiritual righteousness and co-opt in the darkness that covers the world. If we observe what we are rationalizing we will observe where our heart is. That is a pointed and powerful lesson in the relationships of our lives.

Relationship Pyramid

...or what fellowship
has light with darkness?

2 Corinthians 6:14

"Be Ye Separate" Lesson

Put away from you
a deceitful mouth and
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The scriptures in 2 Corinthians give us a spiritual relationship pyramid in terms of how we deal with those around us. The tip of the pyramid and the most important part is those we have the most intimate relationships within our lives and marriage is included. Do not be unequally yoked together.

The next level is a partnership, followed by fellowship. Partnership is a little more intimate than fellowship. We are getting into broader areas of our lives.



Or what **harmony**
(English word "symphony"
is derived from this Greek word)
has Christ with Belial?

2 Corinthians 6:15

Harmony: Strong's #4857 sumphōnesis soom-fo'-nay-sis; accordance, concord

This is where we get the English word "symphony."

(Source: Biblical commentary from Matthew Poole) **Belial:** The term is used only in this place in the New Testament, but very often in the Old Testament to express men notoriously wicked and scandalous, De 13:13 Jud 19:22 1Sa 1:16 2:12 25:17 2Sa 16:7 2Ch 13:7.

What harmony do we have as those under Christ, with the world as those under Satan's rule? Are you "in tune" with those under Satan's rule? The fact of our being under Christ defines our being in the world and not of it and our following a spiritual ruler of righteousness and not an earthly one. Ours is a spiritual symphony!



A caller from Connecticut suggests: **Hebrews 6: 10: (KJV)** *For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.* Christians should be equally yoked. My wife and I were married for 58 years. She passed away last April. I remember Paul Harvey wrote a book stating... "A successful marriage equals God plus a good sense of humor."

1 Corinthians 10:20-22: (NASB) ²⁰No, 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. (To sacrifice is to show allegiance) ²¹You 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. (Again the Old Testament principle of choose - no limping between two places) ²²Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? We are not stronger than He, are we? (God will NOT have us half way - remember the church of Laodicea in Revelation?)

Does the following audio clip mean that Jonathan and Rick are in trouble?

Kingdom, not scores, Why Christians Can't Follow Sport, Robert Lyte, YouTube

- *You see, dear friends, when we don't have the cross in us and when we're not following Jesus and we're just claiming his name but we don't know him, the world's interest isn't going to be crucified in us. We're still going to be following the world and its way. That's why I sincerely warn you today as a Christian who hasn't had this desire crucified in them yet. I warn you come out of your path. You are not right before God. If you're just interested in the sport and the latest scoreboard you don't have the cross in you and you're not on your way to the kingdom of God.*



(Rick): Jonathan, you are a die-hard Pittsburgh Steelers fan. How do you harmonize that with what we have been discussing? It's all about following after Christ and making sure you don't have these attachments. You just admitted to thousands of people that you are a die-hard Steelers fan.

(Jonathan): If the Lord presents something before me that is spiritual, or if my brethren or family need me, I shut off the TV and do what the Lord wants me to do. I won't allow that to prevent me from doing what the Lord puts before me. It is recreation, not a way of life.

(Jonathan): Rick, you are a huge Yankees fan! How do you harmonize that with what we have been discussing?



(Rick): There are 162 games per year in baseball. I have a rule. I love baseball. I will not allow myself to watch an entire game throughout the whole season because I could be sucked into it. I watch or listen a little here and there. Once a year my daughters buy us tickets to a Yankees game and we have a family day. It is recreation.

Are you going to be driven by it or is it just something you do as recreation?

Fourth level of "togetherness" - Harmony - playing the same piece of music in the same orchestra

Let your eyes
look directly ahead and
let your gaze be fixed
straight in front of you.

Proverbs 4:25

If members of a symphony :

- 1. We must know our part and play our part – there is no room for adding our own music!*
- 2. We must always be focused on the conductor for our direction in tempo, volume and unity.*



Our truest heart allegiance demands
our consistent focus and attention!



Relationship Pyramid

Or what harmony has
Christ with Belial?

2 Corinthians 6:15

"Be Ye Separate" Lesson

Let your eyes
look directly ahead and
let your gaze be fixed
straight in front of you.

Proverbs 4:25

... or what has a believer
in common <3310> with an
unbeliever?

2 Corinthians 6:15

In common: Strong's #3310 mer-ece' 1) a part as distinct from the whole
2) an assigned part, a portion, share

Luke 10:42: (KJV) *But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part <3310>, which shall not be taken away from her.*



The commonality here seems to be along the idea of differing roles under the same overall objective. Based on light versus darkness and the lack of harmony already presented, where would the roles - the assigned parts - be that the believer and unbeliever would play under the headship of Christ?

2 Corinthians 5:20: (NASB) *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

An ambassador is from another country... The only opportunity for a believer and an unbeliever to play "assigned roles" is OUTSIDE of the headship of Christ, which must happen in life - the question is - IS THAT WHERE WE LIVE? Is that where WE WANT to live?

As we walk a path in this world, we must be sure that we do not become attracted to the things and people of this world to a point where they become a significant focus rather than Christ.

**Watch the path of your feet
and all your ways
will be established.**

Proverbs 4:26

**How much focus are we giving the world that is necessary for our SUSTANANCE
vs.
how much focus are we giving that is voluntary, for our happiness and PLEASURE?**





Fifth level of “togetherness”- Common ground - the interlocking principles upon which we stand

Okay, we are different than the world - can't we still just get along?

Relationship Pyramid

... or what has a believer
in common with an unbeliever?

2 Corinthians 6:15

“Be Ye Separate” Lesson

Watch the path of your feet
and all your ways
will be established.

Proverbs 4:26

There is a saying: He who chases two rabbits catches none. Is our primary joy coming through our Christian walk? Some of our greatest joy is doing the radio program and going to Bible conferences.

Agreement: Strong's #4783. soong-kat-ath'-es-is; a deposition (of sentiment) in company with, i.e. (figuratively) accord with; agreement.

What agreement has
the temple of God with idols?

2 Corinthians 6:16



Life Changing, Should a Christian Date a Non-Christian, Jeff and Alyssa Bethke

- *Some people think, especially younger people think, that Christianity or Jesus is a slice of their pie rather than the fact that if you're Christian, it's the whole pie; it's the whole thing. It's not just you raised your hand and you signed a card but according to Scripture became this new creation. The world completely kind of restructures itself around the resurrection of Jesus and we're adopted into that family. That's a cosmic shaking level thing where something big happened.*

A temple is where religion is kept - to those who believe any religion and this includes paganism, it is a place of sacred meaning and worship. Where is the temple of God the Apostle references?

Paul's answer is in the next phrase of the verse but it is also a reminder of his first letter:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20: (NRSV) ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

The admonition here is very clear. I am not my own - I must therefore be and do only what is in accord - in agreement with sanctification (being set apart) - with being set aside for a holy purpose, with being a temple. This is what I was bought for - I MUST therefore sanctify myself, for that is what I promised. The purpose of becoming a Christian is to give up your will and do the will of God through Christ. What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? If you are a true, true follower of Christ then you are the temple of the spirit of God.

What agreement do we have with an idolatrous world? We can get along in that world just as Jesus and the apostles did. We have the example of good and wholesome people trying to save the world - isn't that what we want? Yes, but we know that the only way to save it is to go through Armageddon and the Day of Judgment; so our process and hope are therefore contrary to those who are trying to preserve what it is right now. We are simply not on the same page although we want the same ultimate result.



A caller from Indiana suggests: if you mix two different kinds of animals in a yoke you will plow a crooked line. The object is to get the field to yield the absolute maximum that it can in the most efficient way that it can and the way to do that is to be equally yoked.

Sixth level of "togetherness" - Accord - the general purpose for living our lives

We are out of accord with the world around us but we are in accord with the will of God through Christ. This is telling us how different we are supposed to be with all the different levels of our life. There should be a massive difference.



Relationship Pyramid

What agreement has
the temple of God with idols?

2 Corinthians 6:16

"Be Ye Separate" Lesson

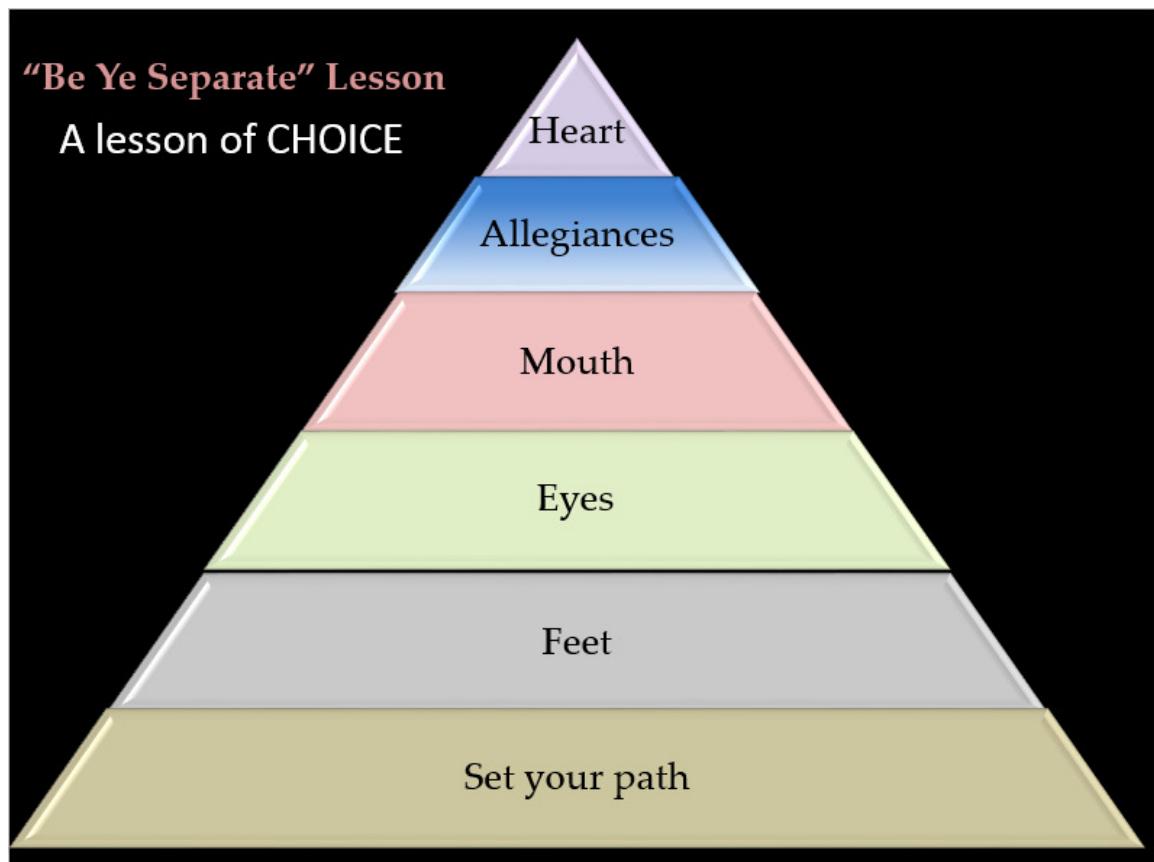
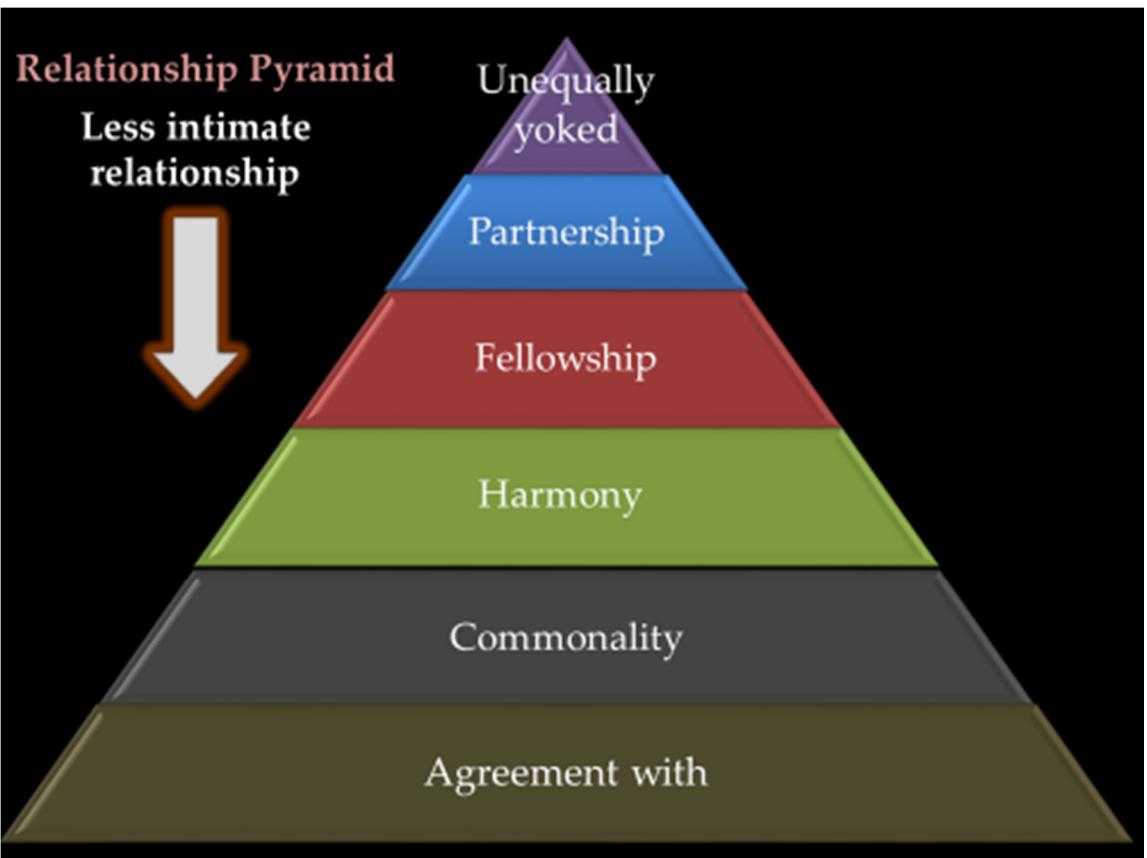
Do not turn to the right nor to the left

Proverbs 4:27

To what and to whom do I focus my primary allegiances? We must answer this for ourselves and we should not try, want or desire to answer for someone else. Our answer must be Our Heavenly Father and his son Jesus. If not, then what are we focused on?

Keep your heart with all diligence. If we get our heart right then everything else is so much easier to put in place.

What do we have so far? We have a list of six different levels of interaction with the world that the Apostle places in descending order. This list touches each and every part of our lives, from the most intimate connections to merely being on the same page as someone.





Why is there such a disconnect between believers and non-believers?

The Apostle concludes with the answer to that question:

2 Corinthians. 6:16-17: (NASB) ¹⁶...*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.* (Leviticus 26:11-12) ¹⁷*Therefore, come out from their midst and be (ye) separate, says the Lord. And do not touch what is unclean; (Isaiah 52:11) And I will welcome you.*

Walk away from any ties that are of this world, that are therefore unclean (in terms of godliness) and that can deter us from that which we have covenanted to do. This could also deal in Christianity itself. If you are hearing things that don't square with God's word and are more worldly than following after Christ, then you may have to make decisions. You have to walk away. Be ye separate.

If we do so, here is the promise:

2 Corinthians 6:18: (NASB) *And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me, says the Lord Almighty.*

What an amazing promise! He is saying do this and I will do that. Be separate!

Do not turn to the right nor to the left
turn your foot from evil.

Proverbs 4:27

These verses began with a choice. Watch your heart with all diligence! We absolutely have a choice as to whom and what we bind our hearts! Let it not come to be that we choose to bind ourselves to anyone who is not a follower of Christ! End with the choice to walk away from evil. Wherever possible, choose to walk away!



Now for the "what if" part of this lesson:

What if I know a brother or a sister who has married an unbeliever? What is my responsibility? What should we think? What should we do?

Marriage is sacred - it is called a *covenant of God* in Scripture and we are unequivocally taught that once it is made it must be honored and kept except for very rare reasons. Because of this, my responsibility to this brother or sister is to support them - to encourage them and to be there



for them. It is my awesome privilege as a fellow follower of Jesus to bear their burden in any appropriate way! I am not the judge of that brother or sister - I am their brother! We all make decisions that may not follow exact scriptural guidance. So, I would want someone to look upon me with mercy, compassion, love, kindness and fellowship. When someone makes the decision to marry someone who is not of his or her same Christian faith there can be all kinds of difficulties. It's not my job to add more. It's my job to help them be as spiritually minded as they possibly can be. We need to be a good example. If someone is in the situation of not being equally yoked and then realizes it, they should not divorce. Jesus teaches that there is only one reason for divorce. Be faithful to your decision and to that covenant of marriage and be faithful to your calling to Christ.

Back to our beginning text:

John 17:14-17: (NRSV) *¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.*

Look in the mirror to see if the reflection is one of sanctified (and that means scripturally sound) choices in all areas of life. If so, praise God for His strength! If not, why not and then, what can I change?

**Sometimes our heart
wants what our heart
should not have.**

The answer for that is...

BE YE SEPARATE.





First level of “togetherness” - The Yoke - fastened together (attached) in a long term or permanent relationship

Second level of “togetherness” - Partnership - agreement of and in action

Third level of “togetherness” - Fellowship - agreement in principle

Fourth level of “togetherness” - Harmony - playing the same piece of music in the same orchestra

Fifth level of “togetherness” - Common ground - the interlocking principles upon which we stand

Sixth level of “togetherness” - Accord - the general purpose for living our lives

In our separateness we should show the people around us the love of God through Christ. It should give us a sense of how important it is to let the light of God shine through our everyday life.

*So, should Christians marry only Christians?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!*



2 Corinthians 6:14: (NASB) *Be ye <1096> (5737) not <3361>*

This is a very similar statement to another the Apostle Paul uses in several places - *God forbid*:

Romans 11:1: (KJV) *I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid <3361> <1096>. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.*

Romans 6:15: *What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid <3361> <1096>.*

Here are excerpts from an explanation we received on this from a Greek scholar:

- "God forbid" is not literal.
- Translate, "Do not become unequally yoked to [the] unfaithful." In Galatians 2:17 "Let it not become!" or "Let it not come to be!"
- All the Greek manuscript authority we found puts *not* as the first word in 2 Corinthians 6:14 also, and *become* as the second word. The word order suggests that *not* is where the emphasis is strongest. "May it never be so!"



An exhaustive list of these two words together:

Ephesians 5:17: (KJV) Wherefore **be ye <1096>** (5737) **not <3361>** unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Luke 20:16: (KJV) He shall come and destroy these husbandmen, and shall give the vineyard to others. And when they heard it, they said, **God forbid <3361> <1096>**.

Romans 3:4: (KJV) **God forbid <3361> <1096>**: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

Romans 3:6: (KJV) **God forbid <3361> <1096>**: for then how shall God judge the world?

Romans 3:31: (KJV) Do we then make void the law through faith? **God forbid <3361> <1096>**: yea, we establish the law.

Romans 6:2: (KJV) **God forbid <3361> <1096>**. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Romans 6:15: (KJV) What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? **God forbid <3361> <1096>**.

Romans 7:7: (KJV) What shall we say then? Is the law sin? **God forbid <3361> <1096>**. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

Romans 7:13: (KJV) Was then that which is good made death unto me? **God forbid <3361> <1096>**. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

Romans 9:14: (KJV) What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? **God forbid <3361> <1096>**.

Romans 11:1: (KJV) I say then, Hath God cast away his people? **God forbid <3361> <1096>**. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

Romans 11:11: (KJV) I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? **God forbid <3361> <1096>**: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

1 Corinthians 6:15: (KJV) Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? **God forbid <3361> <1096>**.

Galatians 2:17: (KJV) But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? **God forbid <3361> <1096>**.

Galatians 3:21: (KJV) Is the law then against the promises of God? **God forbid <3361> <1096>**: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

Galatians 6:14: (KJV) But **God forbid <3361> <1096>** that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.



Our "Be Ye Separate" Lessons - all in one place!

Proverbs 4:23-27: (NASB) ²³Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life. ²⁴Put away from you a deceitful mouth and put devious speech far from you. ²⁵Let your eyes look directly ahead and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you. ²⁶Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established. ²⁷Do not turn to the right nor to the left; Turn your foot from evil.

Our "Be Ye Separate" Lesson:

Proverbs 4:23-27: (NASB) ²³Watch over your heart with all diligence.

Choice - we absolutely have a choice as to whom and what we bind our hearts to! Let it not come to be that we choose to bind ourselves to anyone who is not a follower of Christ!

Our "Be Ye Separate" Lesson:

Proverbs 4:23-27: (NASB) ...For from it flow the springs of life.

From the chosen allegiances of our hearts will flow the truest destiny of our lives. Once the beauty of God's plan touches us, our free moral agency is given authority over what we ultimately do with it.

Our "Be Ye Separate" Lesson:

Proverbs 4:23-27: (NASB) ²⁴Put away from you a deceitful mouth and put devious speech far from you.

What our heart wants, our heart will try to get. When our desires and allegiances are outside the realm of God's light, we rationalize - we explain away true righteousness and co-opt in darkness. If we observe what we are rationalizing will observe where our heart is.

Our "Be Ye Separate" Lesson: Proverbs 4:23-27: (NASB) ²⁵Let your eyes look directly ahead and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you.

If we are members of a symphony we are to do two things:

1. We must know our part and play our part - there is no room for adding our own music!
2. We must always be focused on the conductor for our direction in tempo, volume and unity.

Our truest heart allegiance demands our consistent focus and attention!

Our "Be Ye Separate" Lesson:

Proverbs 4:23-27: (NASB) ²⁶Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established.

As we must walk a path in this world, we must be sure that we do not become attracted to the things and people of this world to a point where they become a significant focus rather than Christ.

Our "Be Ye Separate" Lesson:

Proverbs 4:23-27: (NASB) ²⁷Do not turn to the right nor to the left;



Keeping our heart with all diligence really blossoms here, for if our heart is set, then our mind can be set which can set our path which can keep us from turning aside! Move forward - always move forward!

Our Final "Be Ye Separate" Lesson:

Proverbs 4:23-27: (NASB) ...turn your foot from evil.

These verses began with a choice. Watch your Heart with all diligence! We absolutely have a choice as to whom and what we bind our hearts to! Let it not come to be that we choose to bind ourselves to anyone who is not a follower of Christ! End with the choice to walk away from evil. Wherever possible, choose to walk away!