

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Perfecting Holiness
2 Corinthians 6:14 – 7:1

Last time...

1. the grace of God...has changed
 - our hearts – new, from a hard heart of stone to a soft heart of flesh
 - our minds – from Self-first to Self-last (the mind of Christ)
 - our motives – from love Self to love God and others
 - our relationship with God our Maker – from enemies to children
2. we to approve ourselves as the ministers of God in these times when humanism and secularism are waging war on Biblical Christianity and Israel, times of:
 - God's sign to the nation's of His coming judgment – Israel re-gathered into His land for the 2nd time (Is 11:11-12, Acts 17:31)
 - the beginning of sorrows (Matt 24:4-8, Luke 21:8-12)
 - the Days of Noah and the Days of Lot (Luke 17:24-30)

Just this week...

- A group of students and chaperones from a Catholic school were mocked and cursed at by the staff at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington DC (a Gov't institution) and then kicked out of the museum because they were wearing "Pro-Life" stocking caps
- A Christian pastor in the Seattle area was arrested for running a very profitable drug business – selling meth, fentanyl, cocaine, and heroin
- 1st Baptist Church in Jacksonville FL was attacked... from without and from within...for standing on the Biblical definition of marriage: "I believe that God creates people in his image as either male or female, and that this creation is a fixed matter of human biology, not individual choice. I believe marriage is instituted by God, not government, is between one man and one woman, and is the only context for sexual desire and expression."
- Minnesota lawmakers are considering a bill that would establish the state as a "trans refuge" for children who are seeking transgender medical procedures but who may be blocked by laws in other states.
- Russia warned Israel about supplying weapons to Ukraine

This time...in this environment, the Lord gives us valuable instruction: holiness in

- our relationships
- our flesh
- our spirit

1 Cor 6

v14a The God we serve and before Whom we stand is telling us about close relationships with unbelievers

yoked...a yoke is a device for joining together a pair of draft animals, especially oxen, usually consisting of a crosspiece with two bow-shaped pieces, each enclosing the head of an animal

A yoke is placed on an ox when it humbles itself, submits to the will of the master, and lowers its head...it bows before the master

A yoke of oxen consists of 2 oxen sharing in the same labor, being in harmony

1. a mature, strong ox that does most of the work and teaches
2. a younger, weaker ox how to serve the master

Two yoked oxen cannot get any closer...they have a close relationship, more than just an association

Unequally yoked...two very different characters/natures not in harmony, not of the same mind, going in different directions connected to each other

Like a yoke of an ox and a wild donkey – two very different creatures

Unequally yoked with unbelievers...close relationships with people that have different:

- masters...every person is following one of these two masters
believer: Jesus Christ

John 13:13 *Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.*

Matt 11:28-30 *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

unbeliever: Satan

John 8:44 *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.*

John 8:39b *If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. (believe God, Gen 15:6)*

- natures

believer: Divine, Spirit

2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Rom 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

unbeliever: carnal, flesh

Rom 8:7-8 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

- worldviews...how one views the world, the people in it, and how to live in it

believer: The Bible, the Word of God

Matt 4:4 *It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

unbeliever: religion (work to please an angry god) or philosophy (humanism, hedonism, atheism, socialism, communism...)

Mark 7:9, 13 *Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition...Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition*

Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

- moral codes

believer: morality and truth come from the Creator God;
faith in, submissive to, and dependent upon God

unbeliever: morality and truth come from Self or mankind;
no faith in God, rebellious towards and fiercely independent of God

Rom 8:5-6 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Fundamentally, a follower of Jesus Christ and an unbeliever see, think, speak, and act VERY differently

Our Father is instructing us, His children, to not be unequally yoked to an unbeliever, to not enter into a close relationship, such as

- husband and wife
- friends/confidants
- business partners

with an unbeliever

A follower of Jesus Christ and an unbeliever,
with conflicting masters, natures, worldviews, and moral codes,
cannot

- see eye-to-eye
- be of the same mind
- be in one accord/unity/harmony

regarding right and wrong and where/how to proceed in this life;
they are different creatures going in different directions

A follower of Jesus Christ, a child of God, simply cannot get good, sound advice
about anything from an enemy of God, a child of the devil

Instead, we are called to

Rom 15:5-7 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be
likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:
That ye may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify God,
even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore
receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the
glory of God.

The best a follower of Jesus Christ and an unbeliever can hope for in their
foundationally disharmonious relationship is an amicable
“agree to disagree”

Result for an equally yoked follower of Jesus Christ in such a close relationship:
heartache, frustration, trouble, a tug-of-war on everything

But...what are we children of God to do with unbelievers?!

- Love them
- Share the Gospel with them and contend for the faith (Jude 3)
- Smell like Jesus (Ch 2:15-16)
- Be a living loving letter, an audio and visual Bible (Ch 3:2-3)
- Reflect Jesus (Ch 4:6)
- Beg them to be reconciled to God (Ch 5:20)

Getting back to the Father's instruction about our close relationships...the wisdom of
God has its fullest fruit BEFORE the start of such a relationship

v14b-16a How can a follower of Jesus Christ be “one” with a different minded unbeliever?

Either the unbeliever will get between the follower and Jesus

Or Jesus will get between the follower and the unbeliever

Because Jesus is the governing 3rd Party in every relationship His follower has

What fellowship...unbreakable bond

has righteousness...belief, pleasing/acceptable to the Living God (Heb 11:6), justified
with unrighteousness...unbelief, displeasing to God, not justified

they just don't mix...like oil and water

What communion...union, partnership

has light...Life, the dominion of Jesus Christ – John 8:12, Matt 5:14-16

with darkness...death, the dominion of Satan

Gen 1:1-4 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that *it was* good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

John 1:1, 4-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 3:16-21 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprove. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

Eph 5:8, 11 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light...And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.

Rom 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

What concord...accord, agreement
has Christ...the sinless Lamb, the Holy One of Israel, John 14:6
with Belial...Satan, the murderer, liar, slanderer, destroyer

What part...portion, participation
has a believer...trusts, loves, obeys God, is following Jesus Christ
with an infidel...unbeliever that does not trust, love, and obey God, does not follow Jesus

like 2 ships going opposite directions

What agreement...mutually beneficial arrangement, harmony
has the temple of God...1 Cor 3:16 and 1 Cor 6:19 repeated here
with idols...sacrifice to and fellowship with devils – 1 Cor 10:20

COEXIST is simply impossible!
Because..

v16b 1 John 1:5b God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

God has said: I will dwell in them and walk in them

John 14:16-17 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:23 If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

John 17:20-23 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

The indwelling Spirit of God simply cannot be a “partner” with the devil

God has said: I will be their God and they shall be My people

Zech 2:11 And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people:

1 Peter 2:9-10a 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: Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God

v17-18 Wherefore...because v14-16 is absolute and unchanging truth...the wisdom of God

come out...depart, get out, escape, leave

from among them...the unbelievers in all of your close relationships

- husband and wife – do not marry an unbeliever
- friends/confidants – do not seek advice from an unbeliever, a BFF cannot be an unbeliever
- business partners – conflicting business practices, “CEO”, money matters

1 Cor 5:6-13

to company with: mix with, have association with

1 Cor 7:10-16

God hates divorce, let the unbeliever depart

and be separate...from the world and unto God – be holy

Ex 32:29 Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves to day to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day. (cleansing the camp of Israel where stood the Tabernacle after the great sin of the golden calf)

Matt 10:32-39

Acts 2:37-42

touch not the unclean thing...do not attach yourself, do not cleave to, the unclean

and I will receive you...as the Bridegroom receives His Bride

Foreshadowed in a father sending his servant to get a bride for his son

Gen 24:2-8

What is God’s motive for this instruction of coming out and being separate?

Love...always love – that which is for our good, good to them that love Him (Rom 8:28)

Jer 7:23

But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

And I will be a Father unto you and you shall be My sons and daughters...

James 1:17b the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Sinners reconciled to God the Father by Jesus Christ, made His children!

John 19:30 *It is finished*

John 20:17 *Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*

John 1:12-13 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

2 Cor 5:17-18a

1 Cor 7

v1 Having, therefore, these promises...2 Cor 6:17-18

Let us cleanse ourselves...in our relationships

Jesus removed our sin...as far as the east is from the west (Ps 103:12)

The stain of sin is removed...

Rom 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 6:18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

So now we live accordingly, day-by-day by the Holy Spirit's guidance

Phil 2:12b work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

2 Peter 1:4-8

Our relationships governed by our Lord Jesus Christ

From all filthiness...

- of the flesh, our "natural" nature

John 13:10a *He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit*

John 13:14-15 *If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.*

1 John 1:9

Eph 5:25b-26 Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word

Heb 10:22-25

- of the spirit, our “supernatural” nature
 - Luke 9:54-56 And when his disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, *Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them*
 - 1 John 3:1-3 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

2 Peter 3:18

perfecting holiness...Phil 1:6 and Rom 8:29, by our surrender/submission to His will... which is for our good: having gotten us out of Egypt, now getting Egypt out of us!

in the fear of God...Heb 10:31, the Lord Almighty (Ch 6:18)

Matt 4:10 *Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

Holiness...the wise relational counsel of God for all of our relationships in all of our days

- with Him
- with all others

Honor the Lord Almighty in your relationships and He will honor you in those relationships

Holiness...

- the battle within...God's will vs my will (Gal 5:17, Rom 7:14-19)
- the battle without...God's will in the spiritual battle raging all around us
 - the unclean makes the clean unclean
 - not unequally yoked and being separate are essential to our spiritual health

The call remains...for our good

- As the children of God – 1 Peter 1:16
- As faithful priests in the order of Mel
 - Lev 10:10 put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean
 - Ezk 44:23 teach my people *the difference* between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.

Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.