

2 Corinthians: Encouragement in Troubling Times  
"Spiritual Separation" # 16  
2 Cor. 6:14-7:1  
8-14-16 Sun AM

Paul loved the church at Corinth but the false teachers had stolen their hearts and they were cool toward Paul. They were seduced by the false teachers and compromising with the world.

Paul appeals to them to separate themselves to God by practice just as they were separated by position at salvation.

Separation is not isolation neither is it fellowship with anybody regardless of truth or behavior. Even Christian love must exercise biblical discernment.

**TT-** Paul gives three arguments for separation.

**I. We Are to fellowship with other Christians (6:14-16).**

1. v. 14a: Believers and unbelievers don't have the same nature.

A pig hangs out with other pigs because they have the same nature. Nature determines association.

A Christian has a divine nature and should want to associate with others who possess the same nature (2 Peter 1:3-4).

"Unequally yoked" comes from **Deut. 22:10**, "Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together. The ox was a clean animal to the Jews but the ass was not. It would be wrong to yoke them together.

It is wrong for believers to be yoked together with unbelievers. Paul taught that it is not right to join together in a common spiritual enterprise with those who are not of the same nature (unbelievers). It is impossible under such an arrangement for things to be done to God's glory.

Paul uses nouns such as: fellowship, communion, concord, part, agreement. Each of these words speaks of having something in common.

2. vs. 14b-16- The Reasons. Paul saw a stark contrast between believers and unbelievers by a series of questions.

- (1). What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?
- (2). What communion hath light with darkness? light is truth and holiness while darkness is error and sin.
- (3). What concord hath Christ with Belial [Satan]?

- (4). What part hath he that believes with an infidel?
- (5). What agreement hath the temple of God with idols?

For you [plural] are the temple of the living God. Note v. 16b.  
In 1 Cor. 6:19-20 he talks about the individual believer but here he is talking about local church being the dwelling place of God

- I. We Are to fellowship with other Christians (6:14-16).**
- II. We are to Separate from Unbelievers (6:17).**

This command in Scripture is from Isaiah 52:11 dealing with a captive nation leaving Babylon returning to their homeland.

- 1. Just as they "came out" we are to "come out."
- 2. Be separate speaks of devotion to God for a special purpose. We must separate from sin and unto God.
- 3. "Touch not the unclean thing" speaks of defilement. We must not associate with that which will compromise our testimony or lead to disobedience.

We see this command throughout Scripture, whether it was Israel with pagan nations, forsaking idols, or separating from false doctrine.

The believer has been called out of the world and not to become like the world.

What do we do as a believer? We don't need to isolate ourselves from those who need Christ or Christian ministry, but we practice "contact without contamination."

- I. We Are to Fellowship with Other Christians (6:14-16).**
- II. We Are to Separate from Unbelievers (6:17).**
- III. We Are Promised God's Blessings (6:18-7:1).**

Again, God loves his children with a special deeper love than the unbelievers. With this gracious promise come some spiritual responsibilities: (Write in leaf of Bible best scripture on sanctification).

- 1. v. 7:1a- We must cleanse ourselves by practice from filthiness of the flesh and spirit.
  - A. We must kill or mortify that "pet" sin that "feeds" the old nature.
  - B. We must kill or mortify an attitude that is sinful.
- 2. v. 7:1b- We must also "perfect (complete or finish) holiness in the fear of God."

We must cleanse ourselves and then perfect. This is sanctification. Both of these work together.