

2 Corinthians 5 is an anchor point to the rest of the book. Paul communicates clearly that if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation (vs. 17). Because we are a new creation, we have a new assignment with new instructions, the utmost being that we are Christ's ambassadors (vs. 20). Now, in the second half of chapter 6, Paul spells out in further detail specific ways we are to live out our ambassadorship for the Kingdom of God.

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

Be Not

Unequally

Yoked

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Jesus spoke clearly in Matthew 12 about a divided *kingdom*, relating it to a divided house. In a home, when affections are divided and priorities of highest regard are not shared, a house will not flourish.

While it may survive, at some level, it certainly will not stand. Establishing unity in the things God calls us to, the nonnegotiable of our faith, especially when it comes to the *partnerships* of life, is critical if we are to be followers of Christ.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHAT comes to mind when you think of a partnership?

WHEN you consider partnerships of various kinds, **WHY** do you think they experience success? **WHY** do you think others experience failure?

WHAT are some partnerships in your life that you are willing to engage with people who are NOT likeminded in things of faith?

WHAT are the partnerships in your life that you will NOT engage with others who are not likeminded in the faith?

2 Corinthians

6:14-7:1

Be Not
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Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

OBSERVATION

What is the opening command in vs. 14?

List the four images used to describe a “partnership” in vs. 14-16.

What are the contrasts Paul uses in following each image of a “partnership” in vs. 14-16?

According to vs. 16-18, list all the promises God gives in what he said.

In 7:1, what does Paul say ought to be our response to the promises given in 6:16-18?

INTERPRETATION

What does it mean to be yoked to something? What problems might arise from being unequally yoked? Consider the commandments given Deuteronomy 22:10, Leviticus 19:19 for insight.

To whom is Paul speaking in this passage? Consider 2 Corinthians 11:13-14, 13:5-8.

What dangers could come from being unequally yoked in the church? What about in marriage, business, or another “binding” partnership?

What do you notice about Paul’s reasons to avoid being unequally yoked in vs. 14-16? What can you conclude from the contrasts given about the seriousness of being unequally yoked? Why do many Christians compromise in this area?

What is Paul NOT saying when it comes to the interactions of Christians and non Christians? See 2:15-17, 5:20, 1 Corinthians 5:9-11.

How do the promises mentioned in vs. 16-18 inform us of *why* we are to live the way described in 7:1? How do these promises motivate you to not be unequally yoked to unbelief? Consider the passages quoted: Leviticus 26:11-12, Ezekiel 37:27, 2 Samuel 7:14, Isaiah 52:11.

APPLICATION

How can you begin to build a foundation of partnerships that will seek to be equally yoked in belief, starting today?