

7/22/12

**SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND HUMILITY OF A
MAN OF GOD, WEEK 27**

TITLE: SCRIPTURAL SEPARATION, PART I

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 6:14-16A

**INTRODUCTION: (1) CHRISTIANS AND NON-CHRISTIANS
INHABIT TWO OPPOSING WORLDVIEWS AND WORLDS.**

*** CHRISTIANS, BELIEVERS ARE IN JESUS CHRIST'S
KINGDOM, WHICH IS CHARACTERIZED BY LIGHT,
RIGHTEOUSNESS AND ETERNAL LIFE.**

**** WHEREAS NON-CHRISTIANS, UNBELIEVERS ARE IN
SATAN'S KINGDOM WHICH IS CHARACTERIZED BY
DARKNESS, UNRIGHTEOUSNESS AND SPIRITUAL DEATH.**

***** BEYOND THAT, THE CHRISTIAN AND THE UNBELIEVER
HAVE DIFFERENT BELIEFS, AFFECTIONS, GOALS,
ATTITUDES AND HOPES.**

****** IN SHORT, THERE ARE OPPOSING PERSPECTIVES,
LIFE IS VIEWED WITH TWO KINDS OF LENSES AND
WORLDVIEWS ARE IN OPPOSITION.**

(2) BECAUSE OF THAT, RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND NON-CHRISTIANS ARE AT BEST LIMITED TO THE TEMPORARY AND THE EXTERNAL.

*** WE MAY ENJOY FAMILY TIES, WORK AT THE SAME JOBS, EXPERIENCE SOME OF THE SAME INTERESTS AND EVEN AGREE ON CERTAIN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES.**

**** HOWEVER, ON THE SPIRITUAL ETERNAL LEVEL, BELIEVERS AND UNBELIEVERS LIVE IN TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT AND OPPOSING WORLDS.**

***** AND TO A TRUE BELIEVER, A TRUE FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST, IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS THAT THEY CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT LIVE IN BOTH WORLDS.**

****** I MEAN SCRIPTURE IS CLEAR, WE ARE TOLD NOT TO BE CONFORMED TO THE WORLD SYSTEM IN ROMANS 12:2.**

(3) JAMES EXPRESSES THIS TRUTH IN VERY CLEAR LANGUAGE IN JAMES 4:4 WHERE HE SAID: (QUOTE IT).

*** AND THEN JOHN SAID IN I JOHN 2:15&16 (QUOTE THEM)**

**** NOW BEYOND THESE TRUTHS, IN OUR INTER-PERSONAL CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS, WE ARE NOT TO**

**PARTICIPATE IN DEEDS OF DARKNESS, QUOTE
EPHESIANS 5:11.**

***** AND THEN THE PSALMIST SAID IN PSALM 119:63
(QUOTE IT).**

****** NOW IT IS CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT WE ARE IN THIS
WORLD AS BELIEVERS, BUT NOT OF THIS WORLD, AND
THAT WE CANNOT LIVE IN BOTH WORLDS.**

**(4) AND AS WE COME TO OUR TEXT TODAY, WE SEE
FROM THE BOOK OF I CORINTHIANS AND II CORINTHIANS
THAT SOME OF THE CORINTHIAN BELIEVERS HAD
STRUGGLED BIG TIME TO MAKE A CLEAR BREAK FROM
WORLDLY AND IDOLATROUS PRACTICES THAT THEY
WERE SAVED OUT OF.**

*** SOME OF THEM WERE CLINGING TO ELEMENTS OF
THEIR FORMER LIFE AND PAGAN RELIGION AND
THEREFORE FAILED TO MAKE A CLEAN BREAK FROM
THEIR IDOLATROUS PAST.**

**** IT IS TO SAY, THE MAGNET OF THEIR FORMER
PAGANISM, WHICH SATURATED EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE
IN CORINTH, HAD PROVEN HARD TO SHAKE.**

***** BEYOND THAT AND MAKING MATTERS WORSE, THE
FALSE TEACHERS AND FALSE APOSTLES WHOM HAD
INFILTRATED THE CHURCH AT CORINTH WERE TEACHING**

A WORKS SALVATION, A MIXTURE OF JEWISH LEGALISM AND PAGAN MYSTICISM, AND SOME GOSPEL TRUTH.

****** AND THESE FALSE TEACHERS WERE EAGER TO STAY CONNECTED TO THE CORINTHIAN'S FORMER IDOLATROUS BEHAVIOR, TO MAKE THEMSELVES MORE POPULAR AND THEREBY, MORE PROSPEROUS.**

(5) NOW WITH THAT BACKGROUND BEFORE US, PAUL GAVE THE COMMAND TO SEPARATE FROM FALSE RELIGION, TO SEPARATE FROM IDOLATRY AND PRACTICES THAT MADE OTHER BELIEVERS STUMBLE, TO SEPARATE FROM WORLDLY BEHAVIOR AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH UNSAVED PEOPLE THAT YOKED THEM TOGETHER WITH, THAT WOULD BIND THEM TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS.

*** BELOVED IN II CORINTHIANS 6:14-7:1, PAUL CALLS FOR SCRIPTURAL SEPARATION WHICH IS THE TITLE OF MY SERMON, WHICH WILL BE PART I TODAY LOOKING AT VV. 14-16A AND FINISHING THE CHAPTER NEXT WEEK, AND COVERING CHAPTER 7:1-4 THE NEXT TIME.**

**** BUT BEFORE I GIVE YOU MY SHORT OUTLINE FOR TODAY, LET ME SAY, WHAT CONNECTS THIS CALL BY PAUL FOR BIBLICAL SEPARATION TO VV. 11-13 THAT WE LOOKED AT LAST WEEK, WHERE WE TALKED ABOUT PAUL'S ENLARGED HEART AND HIS CALL TO THE**

**CORINTHIANS TO RECIPROCATE HIS LOVE BACK TO HIM,
TO OPEN THEIR HEARTS TOWARD HIM?**

***** WELL, ONE OF THE WAYS FOR THEM TO
RECIPROCATE PAUL'S SACRIFICIAL LOVE FOR THEM IS
TO SEPARATE THEMSELVES FROM EVIL INFLUENCES.**

****** REMEMBER, LOVE IS AN ACTION, LOVE IS A VERB,
LOVE IS OBEDIENCE.**

**(6) AND TO RETURN PAUL'S LOVE TOWARD THEM
WOULD REQUIRE THEM TO SEPARATE FROM EVIL
INFLUENCES AND SIN AND PEOPLE THAT WERE
BRINGING THEM DOWN.**

*** IF THEY WERE TO OPEN THEIR HEARTS TO PAUL AS
GOD'S MESSENGER, THEY MUST SEPARATE
THEMSELVES FROM FALSE TEACHERS AND
RELATIONSHIPS THAT WERE SINFUL, TO SUBMIT TO THE
MESSAGE OF TRUTH.**

**** WITH THAT SAID, TODAY WE EMBARK ON A STUDY OF
SCRIPTURAL SEPARATION THIS SUNDAY AND LORD
WILLING, NEXT SUNDAY.**

***** AND TODAY WE'LL LOOK AT VV. 14-16A WITH JUST
TWO POINTS. NO. 1 THE COMMAND OF PAUL IN V. 14A;
AND NO. 2 THE CONTRASTS, 5 RHETORICAL QUESTIONS
IN VV. 14B THROUGH V. 16A.**

****** AND WITH THAT THEME AND OUTLINE TO HANG OUR THOUGHTS ON. LOOK AT V. 14A PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT, THE COMMAND.**

I. THE COMMAND, (READ V. 14A)

A. NOW THE VERB BE IS IN THE IMPERATIVE MOOD IN THE GREEK AND IS THEREFORE A COMMAND, AND THE PHRASE TO BEGIN WITH IN V. 14 IS DO NOT BE, OR BE YE NOT, DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE.

*** SO THE COMMAND IS DO NOT BE WHAT?**

**** AND THE ANSWER IS BOUND TOGETHER, LIT. TO NOT BE YOKED TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS, TO NOT BE UNEQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS, TO NOT BE UNEVENLY YOKED WITH UNBELIEVERS.**

***** NOW WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE YOKED TOGETHER?**

****** WELL, IN THE FIRST CENTURY, TO BE YOKED UP OR YOKED TOGETHER MADE REFERENCE TO THE ACT OF HARNESSING ANIMALS WITH DIFFERENT DEGREES OF STRENGTH, DIFFERENT GAITS, OR NOT HAVING THE SAME NATURE AS ANIMALS, TO YOKE OR HARNESS THEM TOGETHER.**

1. FOR IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR SUCH A MISMATCHED PAIR TO PLOW TOGETHER EFFECTIVELY.

*** IN FACT DEUTERONOMY 22:10 SAYS: “YOU SHALL NOT PLOW WITH AN OX AND A DONKEY TOGETHER.”**

**** NOW THESE TWO ANIMALS WITH DIFFERENT SIZES, STRENGTH, TEMPERAMENTS AND PACE OR GAIT, COULD NOT PLOW A STRAIT FURROW TOGETHER. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE.**

***** BEYOND THAT, ACCORDING TO THE JEWISH DIETARY LAWS, THE OX WAS A CLEAN ANIMAL, BUT THE DONKEY WAS UNCLEAR.**

****** SO TO GET THEM INTO A DOUBLE HARNESS TO DO WORK WOULD NOT WORK. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR SUCH A MISMATCHED PAIR TO PLOW TOGETHER EFFECTIVELY.**

2. NOW THE APPLICATION, PAUL’S POINT IS CLEAR. BELIEVERS AND UNBELIEVERS CANNOT BE YOKED TOGETHER, DOUBLE HARNESSSED WITH UNBELIEVERS.

*** BELIEVERS AND UNBELIEVERS ARE TWO DIFFERENT BREEDS, THEREFORE FOR THEM TO YOKE, HARNESS, TO PARTNER TOGETHER IS DISASTROUS.**

**** WHY? WE ARE COMING FROM TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS, TWO DIFFERENT DESIRES, TWO DIFFERENT REASONS FOR LIVING, TWO DIFFERENT AFFECTIONS, TWO DIFFERENT GOALS. IN SUMMARY TWO DIFFERENT AND CONTRADICTORY WORLDVIEWS.**

***** BELIEVERS AND UNBELIEVERS CANNOT BE MISMATCHED, IT IS A PARTNERSHIP OF OPPOSITION, WE CANNOT BE HARNESSSED TOGETHER IN VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WHICH DEMAND GOING IN THE SAME DIRECTION, FOR CONNECTED TOGETHER, THE DESIRE WILL BE TO GO IN TWO DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.**

****** SO THE COMMAND IS TO NOT BE BOUND TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS IN ANY RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL EVENT, ANY KIND OF CLOSE PARTNERSHIPS, ANY KIND OF ACTIVITIES THAT YOKE PEOPLE UP.**

3. NOW IT'S INTERESTING THAT AFTER PAUL GIVES THIS COMMAND, HE ASKS 5 RHETORICAL QUESTIONS THAT PRESUPPOSE A NEGATIVE ANSWER.

*** IT IS TO SAY, PAUL WILL ASK 5 QUESTIONS THAT ARE CONTRASTS, TO SHOW THE ABSOLUTE INCOMPATIBILITY, THE INCONGRUITY WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN BELIEVERS AND UNBELIEVERS.**

**** THEREFORE, WE WILL SEE FIVE COMMON SENSE CONTRASTS, EACH IN THE FORM OF A QUESTION THAT ASSUMES A NEGATIVE ANSWER, WHICH LEADS US TO OUR SECOND POINT TODAY, THE CONTRASTS. LOOK BACK TO V. 14 AGAIN PLEASE.**

II. THE CONTRASTS, (READ V. 14)

A. NOW THE FIRST TWO QUESTIONS OR CONTRASTS ARE FOUND IN THE SECOND PART OF V. 14.

*** AND THE FIRST CONTRAST IS, WHAT PARTNERSHIP HAS RIGHTEOUSNESS AND LAWLESSNESS, OR RIGHTEOUSNESS WITH WICKEDNESS?**

**** AND THE GREEK WORD, PARTNERSHIP LIT. MEANS FELLOWSHIP, TRANSLATED THAT WAY IN THE NKJV AND THE KJV, AND IT ALSO MEANS COMMUNION AND SHARING.**

***** AND THIS WORD DESCRIBES BEING INVOLVED IN A RELATIONSHIP OF COMMON LIFE AND EFFORT, A PARTNERSHIP OF THE CLOSEST KIND.**

****** SO THE QUESTION IS WHAT PARTNERSHIP HAS RIGHTEOUSNESS WITH UNRIGHTEOUSNESS? CAN THERE BE A PARTNERSHIP OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND LAWLESSNESS? THE ANSWER IS NO!**

1. WHY? BECAUSE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND LAWLESSNESS ARE OPPOSITES. RIGHTEOUSNESS IS OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW OF GOD AND LAWLESSNESS IS REBELLION AGAINST GOD'S HOLY LAW.

*** AND RIGHTEOUSNESS CHARACTERIZES BELIEVERS BECAUSE CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS HAS BEEN IMPUTED TO US.**

**** HOWEVER, UNBELIEVERS ON THE OTHER HAND ARE CHARACTERIZED BY LAWLESSNESS FOR THAT IS THEIR NATURE.**

***** AND THERE IS NO MIDDLE GROUND HERE, NO MEETING OF THE MINDS, NO COMPROMISE HERE. WE HAVE TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS, TWO DIFFERENT NATURES, TWO OPPOSITES.**

****** THEREFORE THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE REBELLIOUS CANNOT PARTNER BECAUSE OF THE ABSOLUTE CONTRAST BETWEEN THEM. THEY ARE AS SEPARATED AS VIRTUE IS FROM SIN.**

- WHICH LEADS TO CONTRAST OR QUESTION NO. 2, WHAT FELLOWSHIP HAS LIGHT WITH DARKNESS?

2. NOW IT IS CRYSTAL CLEAR, IT IS SELF-EVIDENT THAT LIGHT AND DARKNESS ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE, THEY

ARE POLAR OPPOSITES, DARKNESS IS THE ANTITHESIS OF LIGHT.

*** AND BIBLICALLY LIGHT REFERS TO TRUTH, DARKNESS TO ERROR.**

**** LIGHT REFERS TO HOLINESS, DARKNESS TO EVIL, QUOTE EPHESIANS 5:8.**

****** AND THEN JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, SATAN IS THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS, QUOTE JOHN 8:12.**

****** AND THEN, THE ULTIMATE DESTINATION OF THE BELIEVER IS THE ETERNAL LIGHT OF HEAVEN, BUT THE ETERNAL DESTINATION OF THE UNBELIEVER IS THE ETERNAL DARKNESS OF HELL, QUOTE MATTHEW 8:12.**

3. AND BELOVED, AS WE PUT ALL THOSE TRUTHS AND COMPARISONS TOGETHER, THE BOTTOM LINE IS, TO EXPECT THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE CHILDREN OF DARKNESS IS AS CRAZY, IS AS FOOLISH, IS AS RIDICULOUS AS TO EXPECT IT TO BE BOTH LIGHT AND DARK IN THE SAME PLACE AT THE SAME TIME. THE TWO CANNOT CO-EXIST, THEY ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE!

*** AND THAT CONTRAST LEADS US TO CONTRASTS OR QUESTIONS 3&4 FOUND IN V. 15. LOOK AT V. 15 PLEASE.**

B. READ V. 15. NOW THE FIRST TWO CONTRASTS IN VERSE 14 FOCUSED ON THE RADICALLY DIFFERENT NATURES POSSESSED BY CHRISTIANS (RIGHTEOUSNESS AND LIGHT) AND NON-CHRISTIANS (LAWLESSNESS AND DARKNESS).

*** NOW PAUL'S THIRD CONTRAST OR QUESTION DEALS WITH THE LEADER OF THE KINGDOM OF LIGHT, CHRIST, WITH THE LEADER OF THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS, BELIAL, AN ANCIENT NAME OF SATAN, WHICH BELIAL MEANS WORTHLESS ONE OR WICKED ONE, THE LAWLESS ONE.**

**** AND WHEN YOU BOIL IT ALL DOWN, WHAT COMMONALITY DOES CHRIST (THE ANOINTED HOLY ONE) HAVE WITH THE WICKED, LAWLESS ONE? THE ANSWER IS NONE.**

***** I MEAN TO ASSURE THAT CHRIST AND SATAN COULD COOPERATE OR PARTNER IN AGREEMENT, IN ANY COMMON SPIRITUAL ETERNAL EFFORT IS CRAZY, IT IS LUDICROUS, IT IS ABSURD.**

****** AND NOTICE THE WORD THAT PAUL USES TO COMMUNICATE THE CONTRAST BETWEEN CHRIST AND BELIAL.**

1. IT IS THE WORD HARMONY OR ACCORD, DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE AND IS THE GREEK

WORD SOOM-PHONE - NAY-CEASE FROM WHICH WE GET OUR ENGLISH SYMPHONY AND WHAT YOU HAVE IN A SYMPHONY IS A HARMONY OF SOUNDS, A HARMONIOUS COMBINATION OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS THAT PRODUCE GLORIOUS MUSIC, THEY ARE IN UNISON.

- FOR WHAT CHAOS YOU WOULD HAVE IN AN ORCHESTRA IF EVERY INSTRUMENTALIST PLAYED HIS OWN TUNE HIS OWN WAY, NOT FOLLOWING THE CONDUCTOR OR PLAYING HIS SCORE PROPERLY.

*** WELL, THERE IS NO HARMONY, NO AGREEMENT, NO CONCORD, NO UNISON WITH CHRIST AND SATAN; THERE IS NO SYMPHONY BETWEEN CHRIST AND BELIAL, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE.**

**** HENCE, THE CHILDREN OF CHRIST HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON WITH THE CHILDREN OF SATAN.**

***** WHICH LEADS TO CONTRAST NO. 4, THE END OF V. 15, WHAT HAS A BELIEVER IN COMMON WITH AN UNBELIEVER?**

****** AND OF COURSE THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION IS NOTHING.**

2. THERE IS NO COMMONALITY, NO COMMON SPIRITUAL GROUND WITH A BELIEVER AND AN UNBELIEVER.

*** AGAIN THEY ARE COMING FROM TWO DIFFERENT WORLDVIEWS. AND THIS FOURTH CONTRAST KIND OF SUMS UP THE FIRST 3 CONTRASTS, REINFORCING THE CLEAR OBVIOUS PRINCIPLE AND TRUTH THAT A BELIEVER HAS NO COMMON SPIRITUAL GROUND WITH AN UNBELIEVER.**

**** THEREFORE A BELIEVER AND UNBELIEVER ARE UNEQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER WHEN THEY TRY TO PARTNER AND HAVE HARMONY TOGETHER.**

***** FAITH HAS NOTHING IN COMMON WITH DISBELIEF, CHRISTIANS AND NON-CHRISTIANS ARE COMMITTED TO MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE IDEOLOGIES AND WORLDVIEWS AND ARE LED AND ENERGIZED BY OPPOSING POWERS, CHRIST AND SATAN.**

3. THEREFORE THEY MUST SEPARATE WHICH LEADS TO OUR FIFTH AND FINAL CONTRAST TODAY. LOOK AT V. 16A.

C. READ V. 16A. NOW LORD WILLING, WE WILL SEE NEXT WEEK THAT THE TEMPLE OF GOD IN THE NEW COVENANT MAKES REFERENCE TO BELIEVERS BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AS THE TEMPLE OF GOD AND CORPORATELY AS THE CHURCH WE GATHER AS BELIEVERS AS THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD. AND I HOPEFULLY WILL DEVELOP THAT MORE NEXT WEEK. THIS IS THE FOREGROUND MAIN INTERPRETATION.

*** HOWEVER IN THE BACKGROUND, IT MAY, IT MIGHT BE AND I AM NOT BEING DOGMATIC HERE, IT MIGHT BE THE JEWISH TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM AT THAT TIME, BECAUSE OF THE FALSE TEACHERS AND THEIR ROOTS FROM BEING FROM JERUSALEM, AND BEING JUDAIZERS, WE SEE THE JEWISH ADDITIVES OF WORKS TO FAITH.**

**** AND WITH THE JEWISH TEMPLE IN THE BACKGROUND THERE WERE NEVER ANY IDOLS OR STATUES OR RELIGIOUS ART IN OR NEAR IT, IN CONTRAST TO PAGAN TEMPLES THAT HAD ALL KINDS OF PHYSICAL IDOLS AND STATUES THAT REPRESENTED A MULTITUDE OF GODS.**

***** BUT REGARDLESS OF WHICH TEMPLE IT IS, WE KNOW THAT PAUL IN THE NEXT PHRASE TEACHES THE TRUTH**

OF THE REAL TEMPLE TODAY, THE TRUTH THAT NO COMPROMISE OR AGREEMENT CAN BE MADE BETWEEN THE TRUE GOD AND OTHER SO-CALLED GODS, WHICH ARE IDOLS.

****** FOR IDOLS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE TRUE LIVING GOD, FOR THEY ARE FALSE DEITIES, THEY ARE NOT REAL OR ALIVE.**

1. AND THE GOD WHO HAS CREATED EVERYTHING AND WHO RULES IN HEAVEN IS SO GLORIOUS THAT AS SOON AS YOU TRY TO DEPICT HIM WITH A PICTURE OR A STATUE, YOU BELITTLE HIM.

*** HE IS GREATER BY FAR THAN ANYTHING MADE WITH HUMAN HANDS AND THE ARGUMENT THAT PAUL WILL MAKE IN THE NEXT PHRASE, DOES NOT DWELL IN A TEMPLE MADE WITH HUMAN HANDS.**

**** SO BOTTOM LINE IS, THERE CAN BE NO AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TEMPLE OF GOD AND IDOLS. CHRISTIANITY IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH EVERY FORM OF FALSE RELIGION.**

IN WRAP UP AND APPLICATION: (1) WE THAT KNOW JESUS CHRIST DO NOT BELONG TO THE WORLD AS WE ONCE DID. WE MARCH TO A DIFFERENT DRUM. WE LIVE OUR LIVES TO ANOTHER AGENDA.

*** NEVERTHELESS, WE STILL CONTINUE TO LIVE IN THE WORLD. AND TO DO SO WITHOUT IT AFFECTING US ADVERSELY IS NOT EASY.**

**** IT IS AS HARD TO LIVE IN THE WORLD AND TO BE UNAFFECTED BY IT AS IT IS TO GO SWIMMING WITHOUT GETTING WET OR TO WORK IN A GARDEN WITHOUT GETTING DIRTY.**

***** THE WORLD'S MINDSET FOCUSES ON THE TEMPORARY, THE PHYSICAL AND THE SENSUAL RATHER THAN UPON THE ETERNAL, THE HOLY AND THE SPIRITUAL.**

****** LIVING IN THE WORLD IS LIKE EXISTING IN AN ATMOSPHERE WHERE THERE IS ALWAYS DANGER OF CONTAGION WITH DEADLY DISEASE.**

(2) HOWEVER, IT IS NOT GOD'S PRESENT PURPOSE TO TAKE US OUT OF THE WORLD OR TO IGNORE THE PEOPLE AROUND US. WE HAVE A DUTY AND A PRIVILEGE TO WITNESS TO THE WORLD AND BE LIGHTS FOR JESUS CHRIST.

*** THEREFORE, IF WE ARE IN THE WORLD, BUT NOT OF IT, AND ARE COMMITTED TO BEING WITNESSES FOR CHRIST, HOW CLOSE SHOULD OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORLD BE?**

**** WELL, WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE YOKED TOGETHER, HARNESSED TOGETHER, BOUND TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS.**

***** FOR WE ARE PULLING AND LIVING IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS THAN UNBELIEVERS.**

****** SO CONTEXTUALLY, WE MUST NOT YOKE TOGETHER WITH FALSE RELIGION, AND IDOLATRY AND MUST PULL AWAY FROM THOSE WHOM ARE ADDING WORKS TO FAITH. WE DON'T COOPERATE WITH THEM, WE DON'T GATHER ECUMENICALLY AND WORSHIP WITH THEM, WE DON'T FELLOWSHIP WITH THEM, WE REPROVE THEM.**

(3) AND PRACTICALLY IT MEANS, OUR CLOSEST RELATIONSHIPS IN LIFE ARE NOT WITH UNBELIEVERS. FOR THE TRUTH OF WHAT WE HAVE LOOKED AT TODAY IN THE 5 CONTRASTS OR RHETORICAL QUESTIONS IS, INTIMATE PARTNERSHIP WITH UNSAVED PEOPLE IS IMPOSSIBLE ILLUSTRATED FROM THE COMMAND TO NOT BE UNEQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER.

*** PARTNERSHIPS OF THE CLOSEST KIND ARE FORBIDDEN WITH UNBELIEVERS, THEY DON'T WORK, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO WORK FOR THERE IS NO COMMON SPIRITUAL GROUND.**

**** THERE ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE IDEOLOGIES THAT ARE ENERGIZED BY OPPOSING POWERS, CHRIST AND SATAN.**

***** THERE IS NO HARMONY BETWEEN THE TWO. WE HAVE OPPOSITE WORLDVIEWS.**

****** TO EXPECT THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE CHILDREN OF DARKNESS IS AS FOOLISH TO EXPECT AS IT IS TO BE BOTH LIGHT AND DARK IN THE SAME PLACE AT THE SAME TIME.**

(4) THEREFORE IN APPLICATION, WE NEED TO HAVE FRIENDS THAT ARE UNSAVED SO WE CAN REACH OUT TO THEM, HOWEVER OUR BEST FRIENDS NEED TO BE BELIEVERS, FOR WE ARE COMING FROM TWO DIFFERENT WORLDVIEWS, AND YOU CAN GET SUCKED INTO THE TEMPORAL WORLDVIEW VERY QUICKLY. QUOTE AGAIN PSALM 119:63 AND PROVERBS 13:20.

*** BELOVED, PULL AWAY FROM YOKING, HARNESSING YOURSELF TO UNBELIEVERS AS YOUR BEST FRIENDS.**

**** ALSO, IF YOU ARE SINGLE, NEVER EVER DATE AN UNSAVED PERSON, LET ALONE MARRY AN UNSAVED PERSON.**

***** YOU ARE COMING FROM TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS, LIGHT AND DARKNESS, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS AND LAWLESSNESS CANNOT PARTNER.**

****** AND NO MISSIONARY DATING. REACH OUT, BUT DON'T FALL INTO THE EMOTIONAL TRAP OF FEELINGS AND YIELDING TO LUST.**

(5) IF YOU ARE IN ANY KIND OF RELATIONSHIP LIKE THAT, GET OUT NOW. PAUL CLEARLY SAYS TO WIDOWERS AND WIDOWS IN I CORINTHIANS 7:39, THEY CAN REMARRY, ONLY, ONLY, ONLY, IN THE LORD!

*** AND BELOVED, JUST APPLY THE UNEQUAL YOKE TRUTH IN ALL PHASES OF LIFE. AND IF YOU DO, YOU WILL EXPERIENCE GREAT JOY IN YOUR OBEDIENCE TO PAUL'S COMMAND TO NOT PARTNER OR YOKE WITH UNBELIEVERS AND TO SEPARATE FROM UNBELIEVERS IN THOSE CONTEXT. LORD WILLING I WILL ADD MORE TRUTH AND APPLICATIONS NEXT WEEK IN VV. 16B-18. (LET'S PRAY)**