

7/29/12

**SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND HUMILITY OF A
MAN OF GOD, WEEK 28**

TITLE: SCRIPTURAL SEPARATION, PART II

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 6:16B-18

**INTRODUCTION: (1) I'VE TITLED MY MESSAGE THIS
MORNING, SCRIPTURAL SEPARATION, PART II.**

*** AND LAST WEEK, IN PART I, I TALKED ABOUT WHAT
SCRIPTURAL SEPARATION IS IN THE CONTEXT OF
II CORINTHIANS 6:14-16A.**

**** AND SCRIPTURAL SEPARATION IS TO NOT BE BOUND
TOGETHER, YOKED TOGETHER, HARNESSSED WITH
UNBELIEVERS.**

***** AND IN THE FIRST CENTURY, TO BE YOKED UP OR
YOKED TOGETHER MADE REFERENCE TO THE ACT OF
HARNESSING ANIMALS TOGETHER TO PLOW A FIELD IN A
STRAIT LINE OR FURROW.**

****** TO YOKE OR HARNESS THEM TO ACCOMPLISH
PLOWING FOR FARMING.**

(2) NOW AN UNEQUAL YOKE WAS HARNESSING TWO DIFFERENT KINDS OF ANIMALS IN THE SAME HARNESS, IN THE SAME YOKE.

*** AND IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR SUCH A MISMATCHED PAIR LIKE A DONKEY AND AN OX TO PLOW TOGETHER EFFECTIVELY. WHY?**

**** WELL TWO DIFFERENT KINDS OF ANIMALS THAT WERE DIFFERENT SIZES WITH DIFFERENT STRENGTHS, WITH DIFFERENT TEMPERAMENTS, WITH DIFFERENT GAITS OR PACES, COULD NOT PLOW A STRAIT FURROW OR LINE TOGETHER.**

***** THEY WOULD PULL AGAINST EACH OTHER PULLING IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS AND COULD NOT WORK TOGETHER. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR SUCH A MISMATCHED PAIR TO PLOW TOGETHER EFFECTIVELY.**

****** AND THE APPLICATION HERE IN II CORINTHIANS 6:14-16A IS CLEAR. BELIEVERS AND UNBELIEVERS CANNOT BE YOKED TOGETHER, DOUBLE HARNESSSED TOGETHER.**

(3) BELIEVERS AND UNBELIEVERS ARE TWO DIFFERENT BREEDS, COMING FROM TWO DIFFERENT WORLDVIEWS, TWO DIFFERENT DESIRES, TWO DIFFERENT NATURES,

TWO DIFFERENT REASONS FOR LIVING, TWO DIFFERENT AFFECTIONS, AND TWO DIFFERENT GOALS.

*** BELIEVERS (CHRISTIANS) AND UNBELIEVERS (NON-CHRISTIANS) CANNOT BE MISMATCHED, IT IS A PARTNERSHIP OF OPPOSITES PULLING IN TWO DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.**

**** SO THE COMMAND IN II CORINTHIANS 6:14 IS TO NOT BE BOUND TOGETHER, UNEQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS IN ALL RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES, IN ANY KIND OF CLOSE PARTNERSHIPS, AND ACTIVITIES THAT YOKE PEOPLE UP LIKE DATING AND MARRIAGE, OUR BEST FRIENDSHIPS, BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS AND TEAMING UP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FALSE RELIGIONS IN AN ECUMENICAL WAY.**

***** NOW AS I TOLD YOU LAST WEEK, AFTER PAUL GIVES THIS COMMAND, HE ASKS 5 RHETORICAL QUESTIONS THAT PRESUPPOSE A NEGATIVE ANSWER THAT ILLUSTRATE THE ABSURDITY OF AN UNEQUAL YOKE, THAT THEY WILL NOT WORK.**

****** IT IS TO SAY, PAUL WILL ASK 5 QUESTIONS THAT ARE CONTRASTS, TO SHOW THE ABSOLUTE INCOMPATIBILITY, THE INCONGRUITY, THE RIDICULOUSNESS OF AN UNEQUAL YOKE BETWEEN A BELIEVER AND AN UNBELIEVER, IN V. 14B THROUGH V. 16A.**

(4) WHICH BRINGS US UP TO SPEED FOR TODAY'S TEXT.

*** AND IN TODAY'S TEXT, WE HAVE THE FAMILIAR COMMAND FOR BELIEVERS "TO COME OUT AND BE SEPARATE." AND WE WILL TALK ABOUT WHAT THAT MEANS AS WE WORK OUR WAY THROUGH VV. 16B THROUGH V. 18.**

**** BUT BEFORE I DO, LET ME COMMUNICATE WHAT IT DOES NOT MEAN, FOR THIS COMMAND IS BOTH MISUNDERSTOOD AND VIOLATED.**

***** AND NO. 1, THE CALL TO COME OUT AND SEPARATE DOES NOT REFER TO REFUSING ASSOCIATION OR FELLOWSHIP WITH THOSE WHO DO NOT HOLD TO A CERTAIN SET OF MAN-MADE RULES FOR LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, AS MANY EXTERNALISTS OR QUOTE LEGALISTS HAVE ADVOCATED.**

****** FOR CONTEXTUALLY IN V. 14 THE COMMAND IS NOT TO BE BOUND OR UNEQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER WITH WHOM? THE ANSWER IS UNBELIEVERS, NOT BELIEVERS.**

(5) NO. 2 IT DOES NOT MEAN REFUSING TO COOPERATE WITH THOSE WHO COMMUNICATE THE TRUE GOSPEL OF GRACE, BUT DO NOT AGREE WITH DIFFERENT MINISTRY STYLES OR SOME DISTINCTIVES OF OUR THEOLOGY

THAT ARE NOT ESSENTIAL LIKE ESCHATOLOGY OR BAPTISM.

*** SOME PEOPLE ARE SO NARROW THEY CAN'T EVEN BE A FUNCTIONING PART OF DOCTRINALLY SOUND CHURCH.**

**** AGAIN THE CRYSTAL CLEAR COMMAND IS NOT TO BE UNEQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER, BOUND TOGETHER, HARNESSSED TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS.**

***** NO. 3 SCRIPTURAL SEPARATION DOES NOT MEAN RETREATING COMPLETELY FROM THE WORLD IN MONASTICISM, GOING INTO A CONVENT OR A MONASTERY TO ISOLATE YOURSELF FROM THE WORLD.**

****** FOR PAUL EXPLAINED IN HIS FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS IN I CORINTHIANS 5:9-13 THESE THINGS:**

v. 9 - I WROTE YOU IN MY LETTER NOT TO ASSOCIATE WITH IMMORAL PEOPLE;

v. 10 - I DID NOT AT ALL MEAN WITH THE IMMORAL PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD, OR WITH THE COVETOUS AND SWINDLERS, OR WITH IDOLATERS, FOR THEN YOU WOULD HAVE TO GO OUT OF THE WORLD.

v. 11 - BUT ACTUALLY, I WROTE TO YOU NOT TO ASSOCIATE WITH ANY SO-CALLED BROTHER IF HE IS AN IMMORAL PERSON, OR COVETOUS, OR AN IDOLATER, OR

A REVILER, OR A DRUNKARD, OR A SWINDLER—NOT EVEN TO EAT WITH SUCH A ONE.

v. 12 - FOR WHAT HAVE I TO DO WITH JUDGING OUTSIDERS? DO YOU NOT JUDGE THOSE WHO ARE WITHIN THE CHURCH?

v. 13 - BUT THOSE WHO ARE OUTSIDE, GOD JUDGES. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.

(6) NOW TO AVOID UNBELIEVERS, YOU WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN OUT OF THE WORLD AND GOD WILL DO THAT AT DEATH OR THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH. BUT TO NOT ASSOCIATE WITH UNSAVED PEOPLE IN ISOLATIONISM WOULD MEAN TO SHIRK OUR RESPONSIBILITY JESUS GAVE THE CHURCH IN THE GREAT COMMISSION AND TO IGNORE THAT JESUS WAS A FRIEND TO SINNERS AND TAX COLLECTORS, LUKE 15:1&2.

*** BELOVED, SCRIPTURAL SEPARATION CERTAINLY DOES NOT CANCEL THE CHURCH'S RESPONSIBILITY TO GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE.**

**** AND THEN NO. 4, SCRIPTURAL SEPARATION FROM UNBELIEVERS DOES NOT, AS SOME AT CORINTH IMAGINED, MEAN DIVORCING AN UNBELIEVING SPOUSE, WHICH PAUL DEALS WITH IN I CORINTHIANS 7:12&13.**

***** FOR TO MARRY AN UNBELIEVER IS A VIOLATION OF THE UNEQUAL YOKE PRINCIPLE, BUT IF A PERSON DOES, OR IF TWO UNSAVED PEOPLE MARRY AND ONE GETS SAVED, ONCE YOU ARE MARRIED IT IS GOD'S WILL TO STAY TOGETHER, UNLESS THERE IS UNREPENTANT IMMORALITY OR THE UNBELIEVER LEAVES THE BELIEVER. I CORINTHIANS 7:15, MATTHEW 5:31&32 AND MATTHEW 19:3-9.**

****** NOW I'VE GIVEN YOU 4 THINGS THAT HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH SCRIPTURAL SEPARATION, WHAT IT IS NOT. AND LAST WEEK I DEFINED WHAT IT WAS.**

(7) NOW FOR TODAY, AS WE MOVE ON INTO VV. 16B-V. 18 WE'LL CONTINUE TO SEE WHAT SCRIPTURAL SEPARATION IS BY LOOKING AT 3 POINTS.

*** NO. 1 THE CERTAINTY, THE TRUTH THAT BELIEVERS ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD, V. 16B; NO. 2 THE COMMANDS TO SEPARATE, 3 OF THEM IN V. 17; AND NO. 3 THE COMMUNION WE HAVE WITH OUR FATHER AS HIS SONS AND DAUGHTERS AS WE OBEY HIS COMMANDS, IN THIS CONTEXT, V. 18.**

**** AND WITH THOSE POINTS AS OUR GUIDE, LOOK AT V. 16 PLEASE, WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT, THE CERTAINTY.**

I. THE CERTAINTY, (READ V. 16)

A. NOW SPRING BOARDING OFF THE FIFTH RHETORICAL QUESTION OR CONTRAST THAT SHOWS THE ABSURDITY, THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF AN UNEQUAL YOKE, THE QUESTION IN V. 16A OR WHAT AGREEMENT HAS THE TEMPLE OF GOD WITH IDOLS? WHICH IS NONE.

*** PAUL SPRING BOARDS OFF OF THAT AND COMMUNICATES THE CERTAINTY, THE FACT, THE TRUTH THAT THE TEMPLE OF GOD IS NO LONGER A BUILDING IN WHICH GOD WOULD DWELL IN AT TIMES.**

**** THAT NOW "WE" ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD. AND WE IS PLURAL, AND IF YOU HAVE A NKJV, THE TRANSLATION IS YOU, WHICH IS A PLURAL.**

***** AND IN THE N.T., BELIEVERS BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY, CORPORATELY ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD, A PLACE WHERE GOD DWELLS.**

****** AND WE SEE INDIVIDUALLY WE ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD IN I CORINTHIANS 6:19&20 WHERE IT SAYS: (QUOTE THEM)**

1. AND THEN COLLECTIVELY, CORPORATELY, BELIEVERS GATHER AS THE TEMPLE OF GOD TO WORSHIP GOD CORPORATELY, WE COME TOGETHER AS THE CHURCH, QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 3:16&17.

*** ALSO EPHESIANS 2:19-22 SAYS:**

V. 19 – SO THEN YOU ARE NO LONGER STRANGERS AND ALIENS, BUT YOU ARE FELLOW CITIZENS WITH THE SAINTS, AND ARE OF GOD’S HOUSEHOLD,

V. 20 – HAVING BEEN BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, CHRIST JESUS HIMSELF BEING THE CORNER STONE,

V. 21 – IN WHOM THE WHOLE BUILDING, BEING FITTED TOGETHER, IS GROWING INTO A HOLY TEMPLE IN THE LORD,

V. 22 – IN WHOM YOU ALSO ARE BEING BUILT TOGETHER INTO A DWELLING OF GOD IN THE SPIRIT.

**** NOW THE TRUTH IS THE CHURCH GATHERS AS A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS AS A TEMPLE OF GOD, INDIVIDUAL BELIEVERS WHOM ARE THE TEMPLE, BECOME A CORPORATE TEMPLE, A HOLY TEMPLE OF THE LORD, A DWELLING PLACE OF GOD.**

***** AND THE ONLY TIME GOD DWELLS IN THIS BUILDING IS WHEN BELIEVERS ARE HERE. FAITH BIBLE CHURCH MEETS HERE (ILLUST. – NORTH CANTON JUNIOR HIGH)**

****** NOW REALIZING THE CHURCH GATHERED IS THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD, A PLACE WHERE GOD**

DWELLS, I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THE PHRASE, “THE LIVING GOD.” (WE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD.)

2. AND THIS PHRASE IS USED 27 TIMES IN MY BIBLE AND IT CONTRASTS GOD, WITH THE DEAD IDOLS OF FALSE RELIGIONS.

*** AND HAVING EMPHASIZED THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF THE TEMPLE OF GOD AND IDOLS IN V. 16A, THAT THERE IS NO AGREEMENT WITH THE TEMPLE OF GOD AND IDOLS, PAUL WILL NOW APPLY IT AND SHOW WHY THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY MUST NOT YOKE UP OR BE BOUND TOGETHER IN ANY WAY WITH FALSE RELIGION, BECAUSE ITS MEMBERS CONSTITUTE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD.**

**** SO THE BELIEVER AND THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE OF GOD’S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD. THEREFORE HOW REVOLTING THE THOUGHT THAT WE AS THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD ENTER INTO UNHOLY RELATIONSHIPS WITH UNBELIEVERS.**

***** I MEAN IT SHOULD BE UNTHINKABLE THAT WE AS THE TEMPLE OF GOD DEVELOP ANY SORT OF UNION THAT WOULD BIND US TOGETHER WITH PEOPLE WHO SERVE IDOLS.**

****** WHO SERVE IDOLS OF GOLD, IDOLS OF MATERIALISM, IDOLS OF SEX, IDOLS OF PRIDE, THINGS THAT PEOPLE SERVE TODAY INSTEAD OF THE LIVING GOD.**

3. AND BELOVED, AS THE TEMPLE OF GOD, BOTH WE CORPORATELY AS THE CHURCH, AS THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD AND WE AS INDIVIDUAL TEMPLES OF THE LIVING GOD, CANNOT BE UNEQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER WITH IDOL WORSHIPPERS AND ESSENTIALLY ALL UNBELIEVERS ARE IDOL WORSHIPPERS, FOR EVERYBODY WORSHIPS SOMETHING AND IT MIGHT NOT BE A ROCK OR A TREE, BUT WHATEVER IT IS, IF IT'S NOT THE LIVING GOD, IT IS AN IDOL.

*** AND IT IS ABSURD AS THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD TO YOKE UP WITH FALSE RELIGION OR ANY RELIGION INCLUDING SELF-WORSHIP TO HUMANISM, OR LINKING UP WITH ANY KIND OF IDOL WORSHIPPER.**

**** BUT ALSO NOTICE AS WE CONTINUE TO MOVE ON IN V. 16, FOUR PROMISES THAT ARE GENERAL QUOTES FROM THE O.T. FOLLOW.**

***** AND THE 4 PROMISES ARE, "JUST AS GOD SAID," AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENTS FROM THE WORD OF GOD,**

IN SEVERAL O.T. PASSAGES FROM LEVITICUS 26:11&12, JEREMIAH 24:7 AND EZEKIEL 37:27.

****** AND FROM THESE PASSAGES THE 4 PROMISES ARE, I WILL DWELL IN THEM, (GOD'S PEOPLE) AND GOD WILL WALK AMONG US AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.**

4. AND ALL OF THESE O.T. QUOTES CONFIRM THAT BELIEVERS ARE GOD'S TEMPLE.

*** AND PAUL, IN QUOTING THESE TRUTHS, WANTS TO IMPRESS ON BELIEVERS THE SOLEMNESS AND IMPORTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE THAT GOD DWELLS AMONG AND WITH HIS PEOPLE AND THAT THEY ARE UNDER HIS CARE AND HIS PROTECTION, THAT THE CHURCH AND HIS PEOPLE BELONG TO HIM, AND THAT THEY THEREFORE SHOULD SEPARATE FROM UNBELIEVERS, FROM THE WORLD AND ALL FORMS OF IDOLATRY.**

**** IN FACT, THE COMMAND TO SEPARATE FOLLOWS IN V. 17 WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR SECOND POINT TODAY, THE COMMANDS. LOOK AT V. 17 PLEASE.**

II. THE COMMANDS, (READ V. 17)

A. NOW THERE ARE 3 VERBS IN THE IMPERATIVE MOOD, THUS 3 COMMANDS IN V. 17.

*** NO. 1 TO COME OUT; NO. 2 TO BE SEPARATE; AND NO. 3 DO NOT TOUCH.**

**** AND BEFORE I TALK ABOUT THESE 3 COMMANDS, NOTE THAT THE CONJUNCTION “THEREFORE” TAKES US BACK TO V. 16 AND LINKS THESE COMMANDS IN V. 17 WITH THE PRINCIPLE EXPRESSED IN V. 16.**

***** FOR AS THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD, BELIEVERS ARE TO AVOID ANY JOINT SPIRITUAL EFFORT WITH UNBELIEVERS, WITH IDOL WORSHIPPERS.**

****** AS THE TEMPLE OF GOD THEY MUST NOT BE LINKED WITH THE UNSAVED IN AN UNEQUAL YOKE IN ANY SPIRITUAL PARTNERSHIP OR YOKING UP WITH UNBELIEVERS IN ANY PHYSICAL UNION OR PARTNERSHIP.**

1. AND THE FIRST TWO COMMANDS IN APPLICATION ARE TO COME OUT FROM THE UNBELIEVING AND TO SEPARATE, SPIRITUALLY AND IN APPLICATION PHYSICALLY.

*** AND THESE FIRST TWO COMMANDS ARE TAKEN BY PAUL FROM ISAIAH 52:11 WHERE IT SAYS: “DEPART, DEPART, GO OUT FROM THERE, TOUCH NOTHING UNCLEAN; GO OUT OF THE MIDST OF HER, PURIFY YOURSELVES, YOU WHO CARRY THE VESSELS OF THE LORD.”**

**** NOW HERE IN ISAIAH 52:11, ISAIAH THE PROPHET IS CALLING FOR JEWISH EXILES IN BABYLON TO LEAVE THEIR PAGAN IDOLATROUS PLACE OF EXILE AND RETURN TO JUDEA AND JERUSALEM.**

***** IN OTHER WORDS, JEWISH PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN TAKEN CAPTIVE BY BABYLON WERE NOW FREE TO LEAVE THERE, TO COME OUT FROM BABYLON PHYSICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY TO BE SEPARATE BY LEAVING ANY OBJECT AND BAGGAGE ASSOCIATED WITH ANY PAGAN IDOLATROUS WORSHIP.**

****** AND BELOVED, GET THIS. WHEN THE ISRAELITES CAME HOME FROM BABYLON, THEY WOULD BE PHYSICALLY LEAVING BABYLON BEHIND, BUT THERE WAS A SUBTLE DANGER THAT THEY WOULD NOT LEAVE BABYLONIAN PAGANISM BEHIND, BUT WOULD TAKE IT WITH THEM.**

2. AS WELL AS THE BAGGAGE THEY HAD ACCUMULATED DURING THEIR LONG EXILE. THEY NEEDED TO MAKE A

CLEAN DECISIVE BREAK BOTH SPIRITUALLY WITH BABYLONIAN IDOLATRY AND THEIR LIFESTYLE.

*** I MEAN THEIR MOVE BACK TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL WAS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO BE DONE WITH ANY KIND OF COMPROMISE THEY HAD TO PUT UP WITH LIVING IN AN IDOLATROUS, PAGAN, HEDONISTIC PLACE.**

**** AND IN APPLICATION, PAUL IN II CORINTHIANS 6:17 IS APPLYING THIS O.T. VERSE AND TRUTH TO THE CORINTHIANS WHO ARE BEING CALLED TO COMPROMISE WITH FALSE RELIGION BY FALSE TEACHERS AND ANY LIFESTYLE THAT WOULD MAKE THEM COMPROMISE THEIR FAITH AS THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD.**

***** IT IS TO SAY, CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM SPIRITUAL CAPTIVITY NEED TO ENSURE THAT THEY DON'T TAKE ATTITUDES, MINDSETS, PHILOSOPHIES, MATERIAL THINGS, AND EVEN IDOLS WITH THEM INTO THEIR NEW LIFE OF SERVICE AND WORSHIP TO CHRIST THAT WILL LEAD TO A CREEPING BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY OF THE SOUL.**

****** COME OUT AND BE SEPARATE FROM THIS WORLD SYSTEM, COME OUT AND BE SEPARATE FROM THE WORLD'S RELIGION, COME OUT AND BE SEPARATE FROM UNEQUAL YOKES AND PARTNERING CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH UNBELIEVERS.**

******* AND BELOVED IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN GOD'S WILL FOR HIS PEOPLE TO BE DISTINCT AND SEPARATED FROM UNBELIEVERS AND THEIR LIFESTYLES AND ACTIONS.**

2. FOR IN LEVITICUS 20:24B AND V. 26 IT SAYS:

*** "I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD, WHO HAS SEPARATED YOU FROM THE PEOPLES."**

**** AND THEN IN LEVITICUS 20:26 IT SAYS: "THUS YOU ARE TO BE HOLY TO ME, FOR I THE LORD AM HOLY; AND I HAVE SET YOU APART FROM THE PEOPLES TO BE MINE."**

***** AND THEN IN I PETER 1:14-16, PETER SAID:**

V. 14 - "AS OBEDIENT CHILDREN, DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THE FORMER LUSTS WHICH WERE YOURS IN YOUR IGNORANCE."

- QUOTE VV. 15&16.

******* NOW IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AND IN THE NEW TESTAMENT ARE TRUTHS THAT GOD HAS ALWAYS CALLED HIS PEOPLE TO BE HOLY AND SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD. AND IF YOU YOKE UP AND PARTNER WITH THEM, THEY WILL BRING YOU DOWN.**

3. SO THE FIRST TWO COMMANDS ARE TO COME OUT AND SEPARATE.

*** NOW THE THIRD COMMAND IS “DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN.” AND THE WORD TOUCH IN THE GREEK REFERS TO A HARMFUL TOUCH, SOMETHING THAT BRINGS YOU DOWN.**

**** AND RETURNING EXILES FROM BABYLON WERE NOT TO DEFILE THEMSELVES BY TAKING PROPERTY AND THINGS HOME FROM THEIR EXILE, THEY WERE TO LEAVE IT ALL BEHIND AND HAVE A CLEAN BREAK.**

***** WELL, LIKEWISE, WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TOUCH THINGS THAT HARM US SPIRITUALLY, THINGS AND RELATIONSHIPS IN LIFE THAT HARM US, THAT BRING US DOWN, INCLUDING RELATIONSHIPS AND WORSHIPPING IDOLS, THINGS THAT GET IN THE WAY AND BRING US DOWN IN OUR COMMITMENT TO CHRIST.**

****** NOW WITH THAT SAID, AS WE OBEY THE 3 COMMANDS OF V. 17, THERE IS A PROMISE AT THE END, “AND I WILL WELCOME YOU.”**

4. AND HERE GOD PROMISES THOSE WHO HEED HIS COMMANDS TO SEPARATE FROM UNBELIEVERS THAT HE WILL RECEIVE THEM, TO ADMIT THEM INTO HIS FAVOR.

*** MEANING, THOSE WHO SEPARATE FROM UNBELIEVERS IN YOKING UP WITH AND PARTNERING WITH THEM WILL FIND GOD'S ARMS OPEN WIDE TO RECEIVE THEM AND BLESS THEM.**

**** THEY ARE RUNNING FROM CERTAIN CHASTENING TO THEIR FATHER WHOSE ARMS ARE STRETCHED OUT WIDE TO BLESS THEM AND USE THEM FOR HIS GLORY.**

***** I MEAN, TWO CLEAR CHOICES, RUN TO THE WORLD AND BE RECEIVED BY THEM IN A HEARTBREAKING RELATIONSHIP THAT CAUSES GRIEF AND SORROW, OR RUN TO THE LORD GOD WHO WILL NEVER LET US DOWN AND WILL BLESS US WITH JOY AND COMFORT AS WE RUN TO HIM.**

****** BELOVED, FAILING TO SEPARATE FROM UNBELIEVERS IS FOOLISH BECAUSE SUCH DISOBEDIENCE CUTS BELIEVERS OFF FROM THE BLESSINGS OF AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD WHO SATISFIES OUR SOULS.**

5. WHICH LEADS US TO V. 18 AND THE SWEET COMMUNION WE HAVE WITH HIM AS WE OBEY HIM. LOOK

AT V. 18 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR LAST POINT TODAY, THE COMMUNION.

III. THE COMMUNION, (READ V. 18)

A. NOW OBEDIENCE TO THE COMMANDS IN II CORINTHIANS 6:14-17, TO NOT BE BOUND OR UNEQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS, TO COME OUT FROM UNBELIEVERS, TO SEPARATE FROM UNBELIEVERS, AND TO NOT TOUCH THE UNCLEAN THING BRINGS SWEET COMMUNION WITH OUR FATHER AS HIS SONS AND DAUGHTERS.

*** AND WE WILL ENJOY THE BLESSINGS OF OUR FATHER, THE CLOSE COMMUNION AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR FATHER AS HIS CHILDREN.**

**** AND MOST LIKELY THE FIRST PART OF V. 18 IS A QUOTE FROM II SAMUEL 7:14 WHICH SAYS: "I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE WILL BE A SON TO ME; WHEN HE COMMITS INIQUITY, I WILL CORRECT HIM WITH THE ROD OF MEN AND THE STROKES OF THE SONS OF MEN."**

***** NOW THIS PROMISE IN II SAMUEL 7:14 IS A PROMISE FROM GOD SPOKEN BY NATHAN TO KING DAVID.**

****** AND GOD PROMISED DAVID THAT HE WOULD BLESS HIS SON SOLOMON, THAT SOLOMON WOULD BE THE**

SUCCESSOR TO THE THRONE OF HIS FATHER DAVID AND BE KING.

1. AND GOD BLESSES HIS OBEDIENT CHILDREN AS HE DID SOLOMON.

*** HOWEVER, IN THE LAST PART OF II SAMUEL 7:14 WARNED, THAT WHEN HE (SOLOMON) COMMITS INIQUITY, I WILL CORRECT HIM WITH THE ROD OF MEN AND THE STROKES OF THE SONS OF MEN.**

**** AND THAT PRINCIPLE IS REPEATED IN SCRIPTURE AS IT IS IN HEBREWS 12:6 WHICH SAYS: (QUOTE IT).**

***** AND BELOVED, AS ALWAYS, OBEDIENCE BRINGS BLESSING AND DISOBEDIENCE BRINGS CHASTENING.**

****** AND SADLY SOLOMON FORFEITED THE PROMISED BLESSING BY MAKING COMPROMISING ALLIANCES WITH UNBELIEVERS.**

2. THROUGH HIS UNEQUAL YOKES IN MARRIAGE AND WITH CONCUBINES , SOLOMON YIELDED TO IDOLATROUS WORSHIP, WORSHIPPING THEIR GODS.

*** AND THE DEVASTATING RESULT OF SOLOMON'S COMPROMISE IN BEING UNEQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER IN MARRIAGE TO UNBELIEVERS WAS THE DIVISION OF HIS KINGDOM.**

**** THE PRINCIPLE FROM SOLOMON: OBEY GOD, BE BLESSED. DISOBEY, BE CHASTENED.**

***** AND WE KNOW THAT THIS TRUTH IS A TRUE TRUTH FOR WHO SAYS IT AT THE END OF V. 18?**

****** “SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY.”**

3. AND THESE PROMISES ARE GIVEN BY NO ONE OTHER THAN THE LORD ALMIGHTY. AND THE TITLE ALMIGHTY IS AWE INSPIRING HERE, BECAUSE IT REVEALS GOD AS THE OMNIPOTENT, ALL POWERFUL ONE TO WHOM NO ONE IN EITHER HEAVEN OR EARTH CAN BE COMPARED.

*** THERE IS NO ONE LIKE HIM. NO OTHER RELATIONSHIP CAN BE LIKE THE RELATIONSHIP AND COMMUNION WE CAN HAVE WITH HIM. HE IS THE ALMIGHTY WHO KEEPS HIS PROMISES.**

**** SO WHY GET INVOLVED WITH AN INFERIOR RELATIONSHIP WITH AN UNBELIEVER WHEN YOU CAN HAVE FELLOWSHIP AND COMMUNION WITH THE ALMIGHTY?**

***** THERE IS NO COMPARISON!**

IN WRAP UP: (1) OBEYING THE COMMANDS OF NOT BEING UNEQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS,

BEING SEPARATE, COMING OUT FROM THEM AND NOT TOUCHING THAT WHICH IS UNCLEAR, IS FOR OUR OWN GOOD AND BLESSING.

*** OBEDIENCE BRINGS BLESSING, DISOBEDIENCE BRINGS CHASTENING.**

**** SO DON'T BE DECEIVED AND RATIONALIZE TO YOURSELF THAT YOKING WITH UNBELIEVERS AS OUR BEST FRIENDS IS BEST, FOR IT NEVER IS.**

***** AND DON'T BE DECEIVED THAT DATING OR MARRYING AN UNSAVED PERSON IS BEST, FOR IT NEVER IS.**

****** AND DON'T BE DECEIVED IN THINKING THAT THIS PERSON WOULD BE A GREAT PARTNER IN BUSINESS BECAUSE THEY ARE WELL CAPITALIZED, BUT ARE COMING FROM ANOTHER WORLD AND NATURE, WHICH NEVER WOULD BE BEST.**

(2) BELIEVE AND OBEY GOD'S TRUTHS IN SCRIPTURAL SEPARATION. AND NEVER YOKE UP WITH OR PARTNER WITH FALSE RELIGION IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCE. REPROVE THEM, DON'T UNITE IN THE NAME OF GOOD OR FOR SOME ECUMENICAL CAUSE.

*** BELOVED IF YOU WANT THE BLESSING AND COMMUNION OF THE ALMIGHTY, OBEY HIM. IT IS ALWAYS BEST.**

**** AND PLEASE UNDERSTAND THIS ABOUT SCRIPTURAL SEPARATION. SEPARATION IS NOT JUST A NEGATIVE ACT OF DEPARTURE OR JUST COMING OUT, IT IS ALSO A POSITIVE ACT OF DEDICATION TO GOD IN OBEDIENCE TO HIM.**

***** WE MUST SEPARATE FROM AND THEN TO. WE MUST SEPARATE FROM SIN AND UNTO GOD. HOLINESS STARTS ON THE INSIDE AND LEADS TO RIGHT BEHAVIOR AND OBEDIENCE.**

****** AND OBVIOUSLY WE NEED CONTACT WITH UNSAVED PEOPLE TO REACH OUT TO THEM, BUT THAT CONTACT SHOULD NOT BE SO CLOSE IN YOKING WITH THEM THAT IT LEADS TO CONTAMINATION.**

3. BELOVED, REMEMBER THIS. SALVATION FROM SIN MEANS WE SHARE THE FATHER'S LIFE, BUT SEPARATION FROM SIN AFTER MEANS WE ENTER FULLY IN HIS SWEET FELLOWSHIP AND LOVE.

*** DO NOT, DO NOT, DO NOT BE UNEQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS! (LET'S PRAY)**