



## What it Means to Live as the People of God

2 Corinthians 6:11-18  
April 3, 2022

**The Big Idea:** Through his own example and in his teaching, Paul calls us to live as God's people in a fallen world. This echoes Jesus' directive that His disciples are to be "in the world but not of the world." [John 17:14-16] We are to generously **love** one another, seek to **influence for** Christ rather than be influenced by the world, and always remember that God **lives in** us through Christ.

### 2 Corinthians 6:1-11 (ESV)

**6** <sup>11</sup> We have *spoken freely* to you, Corinthians; *our heart is wide open*. <sup>12</sup> You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. <sup>13</sup> In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

<sup>14</sup> Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has *righteousness with lawlessness*? Or what fellowship has *light with darkness*? <sup>15</sup> What accord has *Christ with Belial*? Or what portion does *a believer share with an unbeliever*? <sup>16</sup> What agreement has *the temple of God with idols*? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

"I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,

<sup>18</sup> and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

### 3 Questions I Need to Ask Myself About My Relationships With Unbelievers:

- o "When I am with these non-believers, do I find myself in situations where I am dangerously exposed to **temptation** that may get the better of me?"
- o "When I am with non-Christians, do I find it easier than at other times to compromise on **ethical** matters? Do I find myself judging as 'grey' what I would call 'black' if I were with Christians?"
- o "Does my association with non-Christians tend to make me **less vocal** about my faith or less visible in my stand for Christ?"

**Please Note:** The answer is not always to withdraw from the relationship. It might be that the Lord simply wants me to be **stronger** in my witness and walk with these unbelieving friends. Or, there might need to be an adjustment to the time or setting of my interactions with them.

### Timeless Truths:

1. Jesus never calls His disciples to a life of **isolation** and monastic living with only Christians around us.
2. Whatever the context of the Church's and the Christian's relationship with unbelievers, the question should always be: **Who** is influencing **whom**?
3. We ought not project the 'unequally yoked' principle onto issues of personal **preference** where there is no moral or spiritual issue at stake.
4. To be 'unequally yoked' means you are in a substantial relationship that, by definition, is difficult to **dissolve**.
5. To be 'unequally yoked' means you are in a substantial relationship that, by definition, restricts your freedom of **movement**. Is the direction of your movement in this relationship pleasing and glorifying to God?

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"Christ came to redeem us from sin and our sin is in here, not out there." – Voddie Baucham

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