Don’t Be Unequally Yoked!

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible is filled with statements involving “separation.”

--God separated light from darkness
--God separated dry land from sea
--God separated Abraham from the Chaldeans
--God separated Jacob from Esau
--God separated Israel from Egypt
--God separated the clean from the unclean (animals/food/people, etc.)

I. **The Command for Separation** (v.14a)

A bow yoke is a shaped wooden crosspiece bound to the necks of a pair of oxen, or occasionally horses

Proverbs 13:20
He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

To be “unequally yoked” means to be unevenly tied together or to be mis-mated. The imagery comes from the Law, where God commands Israel through Moses, saying: “Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass (donkey) together” (Dt. 22:10).

II. **The Reasons for Separation** (v.14b-16)

“Fellowship” – partnership or participation with
“Righteousness” - unrighteousness (anomia) – righteousness and lawlessness do not go together.

“Communion” – koinonia = fellowship; to have in common or together.
“Light with darkness” - children of God are associated with “light,” having come to Christ who is Light and having received spiritual illumination.

Ephesians 5:8
For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

1 Peter 2:9
But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

“Concord” – sumphonesis – from which we get the word “symphony”; it refers to harmony or agreement together.
“Belial” - a Hebrew word meaning “worthless one.” It is used to describe Satan, the good for nothing, worthless one.

III. **The Benefits of Separation** (v.17-18)

Revelation 18:4
And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

“Touch not the unclean thing” - Do not have any contact with that which is impure.

Salvation does involve separation from lies to truth; from self-righteousness to God’s righteousness; from darkness to light; from death to life.

God's holiness is the foundation (basis) for the doctrine of biblical separation.(Deuteronomy 32:4; Is.6:3; I Pet.1:16)

1) **Moral Separation** =Separating from practices which violate God's Holy Word (Rom.12:2; I Thess.5:22).
2) **Personal Separation** =Separating from people who violate God's Holy Word (Titus 3:10; II Th.3:6; I Cor.5:11)
3) **Ecclesiastical Separation** =Separating from churches which violate God's Holy Word (I Cor.3:17; II Cor.6:14-18).

It is important to note that separation is not merely a negative setting apart from sin, but it is positively a setting apart for God.

Illustration: Jehoshaphat’s Compromise –
2 Chronicles 18:1-3
1 Corinthians 10:21
Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

Psalms 1:1
Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

1. He doesn't follow what they say (v. 1a)
   (Their advice is no good)
2. He isn't found where they go (v. 1b)
   (Their alley/avenue is no good)
3. He doesn't fellowship in what they do (v. 1c)
   (Their assembly is no good)

1 Corinthians 5:9-11
I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:
The Bible teaches separation from "unequal yokes"
1) in marriage (I Cor. 7:3a - "in the Lord")
2) in business
Unequal yokes make for bad marriages because . . .Don’t Share Christ in common; Different world view; standards; morals/ethics; goals; methods; understanding