

## 2 Corinthians #15 (2 Cor. 6:14 – 7:1)

### I. First, Let us Look at verses 11 - 13

- A. Verse 11 – Our mouth is open to you- frankness and boldness
  - 1. Acts 20:20, 26, 27; Ephesians 6:19
- B. “O ye Corinthians” – Paul is appealing to them out of great love
  - 1. Matthew 23:37; Galatians 3:1; Philippians 4:15
- C. Paul is asking Corinthians to reciprocate love- children to father
  - 1. I Tim. 5:4; I Cor. 4:15; Unnatural not to – Romans 1:31
- D. Verse 12 – KJV – Literally “Bowels” or “intestines” – Seat of affections

### II. Then Let Us Look at verses 14 – 17 – Separating Ourselves

- A. Some think transition between verses 13 and 14 is too rough
  - 1. Some critics say verses 14-18 don't belong here – added later
  - 2. But it is normal for an appeal of Fatherly love to lead to exhortation
- B. This issue of separation has been difficult one through history
  - 1. Some think we should separate from world of creation
  - 2. Others have thought that we should separate from society
  - 3. Others have thought that we need to separate from worldly pleasures
- C. Notice that Paul uses five different contrasts to prove his position
  - 1. 1<sup>st</sup> contrast–What “participation” does righteousness have with iniquity
  - 2. 2<sup>nd</sup> – What “Fellowship” does light have with darkness?
    - a. I John 1:5; John 3:19; Colossians 1:12, 13; Eph. 5:7, 8
  - 3. 3<sup>rd</sup> – What “Concord” or “Sympathy” or “Unity” between Christ/Belial
    - a. Paul uses “Belial” – (Worthless or Unprofitable) as name for Satan
      - 1. Deut. 15:9; Judges 19:22; I Samuel 2:12
  - 4. 4<sup>th</sup>- What “participation” or “Share” does believer have with unbeliever
  - 5. 5<sup>th</sup>–What “agreement” or “sentiment” between temple of God and idols
- D. The main idea behind passage is Corinthians mixture with idols
  - 1. I Corinthians chapters 8-10; 10:14 – 22; I Corinthians 8:10
- E. Must also keep in mind concept of the yoke and OT background
  - 1. People get sidetracked as seeing this passage dealing with marriage
  - 2. Old Testament background is Deut. 22:10 and Leviticus 19:19
    - a. Prohibition is against mixing–two different kinds under same yoke
  - 3. God desires same kind under the yoke- Phil. 4:3; Matthew 11:28 – 30
- F. Deals with any situation where believers & unbelievers could be yoked
  - 1. Marriage, business partnerships, friendships, religious associations
- G. This passage not saying we can have no contact with unbelievers
  - 1. I Corinthians 5:9, 10; Matthew 9:10, 11; (then couldn't evangelize)
    - 1. Matthew 28:18-20; Philippians 2:15
- H. Difference between voluntary and necessary involvement- I Cor. 5:9, 10
  - 1. See this in regard to marriage between a believer and nonbeliever
    - a. No necessity for believer to enter into marriage with nonbeliever
  - 2. But if person becomes Christian after marriage – situation different
    - a. Still unequally yoked- but now it is necessary – I Cor. 7:12, 13
  - 3. Necessary for us to work with unbelievers- I Tim. 5:8; I Thess. 3:10
    - a. But entering into partnership would normally be voluntary
- I. We are unequally yoked if relationship causes us to violate principles