

2 CORINTHIANS LESSON 14

Chapter 6:11-18, Rules of True Fellowship and Unity

31 July 2023

Vs 11 **“Our mouth is open unto you...”** This is a common expression used by the Hebrew people. It means to speak with liberty.

Bible cross-references: Judges 11:35; Psalm 78:2; Psalm 109:2; Proverbs 31:26; Ezekiel 24:27; Ezekiel 29:21; Matthew 5:2; and Acts 8:35.

“...our heart is enlarged.” God has made us able to love you.

Vs 12 **“Ye are not straitened in us (constricted, limited), but ye are straitened in your own bowels.”**

- There is a lack of love in our relationship, but it is coming from you.

Vs. 13 **“...be ye also enlarged.”**

- If you find that you are not a very loving person, you have to allow God to make your heart bigger; to enlarge your capacity and willingness to love.

Vs 14 **“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers...”**

- A yoke is an implement which joins two beasts of burden and allows them to pull together and accomplish more work than either could do individually.
- Believers are encouraged to yoke together with other believers in the Lord’s work as we enter the Lord’s yoke (Mt. 11:29).
- In this verse, believers are discouraged and warned not to yoke up with unbelievers.
 - An unbeliever is always going to be pulling against you in the wrong direction.
 - The unbeliever will not agree to go God’s way.
 - In the end, the believer will go the way of the unbeliever: away from God (See Deuteronomy 7:3 for example).
 - Children raised in an unequal yoke will end up following the ways of the unsaved parent.

“...for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?”

- Churches often join efforts with other denominations who have false doctrines. They attempt to show unity and love by this false fellowship.
 - You cannot have true fellowship and unity with any church that doesn’t believe what the bible teaches.
 - Do not abandon that which is right to yoke up with churches that are not right.

“...and what communion hath light with darkness?”

- The gospel that we preach is salvation through faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Those who have another gospel are not walking in the light with Jesus Christ and we cannot have fellowship with them (1 Jn 1:7).

Vs 15 **“What concord (agreement)...or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?”**

- Christians should never join hands with those who deny the truths of the bible.
 - It doesn’t matter if they’re religious, moral, caring, humanitarian, or sincere.
- Christians need to hold onto their integrity (Job 27:5). Stay away from fools who deny God’s truths (Proverbs 14:7).

Vs 16 “And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?”

- Don't associate with individuals or churches that bow down to statues.

“...for ye are the temple of the living God...they shall be my people.”

- Don't mess up your relationship to God by fellowshiping with idolaters.

Vs 17 “Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing...”

- You will be defiled if you unite those who deny the truths of the bible. You cannot *honor* Christ if you're walking with people who *dishonor* Him.

Vs 18 “And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters...”

- If you're born again, you are a child of God and He is your Father. However, you're not going to enjoy a close relationship with Him while you're walking with people who don't want to walk with Him.
 - You can return to God, but you must break union with the unbelievers (Jer. 15:19). They are unclean; don't let them touch you! (Numbers 19:22, Deut. 7:3-6).
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