

“The Heart of an Apostle” - Part 11

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1



“Holiness, The Lost Art”

God’s crowning characteristic from which all others flow is holiness, and He commands His people to take on this same characteristic as evidence of His ownership.

Big Idea: “since believers are sons and daughters of God, they are to actively pursue holiness”

By Not Yoking Ourselves With Unbelievers (6:14-16)

“¹⁴ Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.”” (2 Cor 6:14-16 NIV)

- The phrase “unequally yoked” (ESV) is a compound word in the Greek; *heteros*, which means “another of a different sort”, and *zugos*, which is the word for “a yoke, serving to couple two things together”.
- Paul illustrates this command by stringing together a series of mutually exclusive examples.
 - Righteousness vs. Wickedness
 - Light vs. Darkness
 - Christ vs. Belial (Satan)
 - Believer vs. Unbeliever
 - Temple of God vs. Temple of Idols

By Separating Ourselves From The World (6:17-18)

“¹⁷ Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you. ¹⁸ I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” (2 Cor 6:17-18 NIV)

- Three commands, come out, separate, and do not touch.
- Three promises, *I will be waiting to receive you, be a Father to you, and make you my sons and daughters.*

By Ridding Ourselves of Contaminates (7:1)

“¹ Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.” (2 Cor 7:1 NIV)

- Paul ends this section with a heartfelt appeal for proactive purity on the part of each of us who have received these precious promises of God.
- Paul calls this process, “perfecting holiness”, or to put it another way, becoming holy.

So What?

God has called us to be holy as He is holy. How do we do this?

- By not being intimately joined with those who are unbelievers.
- By separating ourselves from the moral filth of the world.
- By actively pursuing purity, and ridding ourselves of anything that would contaminate our body or soul.

“...share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,” (2 Tim 1:8-9 ESV)

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