

Contrasts in Connection

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources)

Introduction:

- A. 2Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1
- B. We live in a world when connectivity is norm rather than the exception. Smart phones, Internet, Facebook, Twitter, department store video screens on every aisle, etc. we are always connected with those around us.
 - 1. Being connected to those you love and to those who need you is one thing, but there is another kind of connectedness that is not healthy, emotionally, mentally, and especially spiritually.
 - 2. Contemporary speech is filled with the modern paradigm of: tolerance, acceptance, openness, seeker friendly, inclusive.
 - 3. The drive behind it is togetherness, being connected on a human level.
 - 4. The world seeks to bring every one together under the same umbrella, one world, one society, one vast ecumenical faith.
 - 5. It is a clever tactic, and I can understand why so many are being taken in by it.
- C. God did not call His people to be inclusive, but exclusive. The fact is we are called to be different from the world.
 - 1. 1Peter 2:9-10; Eph. 5:8; Titus 2:14; Rev. 1:5-6
 - 2. Corinth failed to understand the principle of in the world but not of the world. Corinth and carnal were synonyms. Philippi was known for its compassion, and Ephesus was known for its commitment, and Corinth was known for its carnality.
 - 3. 1Cor. 3:1; 5:1
- D. Understand clearly
 - 1. Separate from the world does not mean maintain distance between you and those needing salvation - Mark 2:16-17
 - 2. Nor does it mean that we are uniquely special because of some quality or inherent virtue - 2Tim. 1:9

I. MARKED BY CONTRASTS

- A. A contrast in our walk
 - 1. Righteousness is "purity of life, or of that which is pleasing to God."
 - 2. God's children are different from this world in the way they conduct their lives - Phil. 1:27.
 - 3. We are not to put on the world, but we are to put on Christ in the presence of the world - Rom. 13:14
- B. A contrast in our wisdom
 - 1. Light and dark can have no fellowship. Even the tiniest bit of light will stand in contrast to the most oppressive darkness.
 - 2. We are directed by a different standard of living than is the world
 - 3. It is a guide accessible by all - 1John 1:7; John 14:21-23; Psalm 119:9
- C. A contrast in our worship - 1Cor. 10:15-22

1. God's people are different from the world because they have a new nature - 2Cor. 5:17; 2Peter 1:3-4
2. A pig rolls in the mud because it is a pig. If you could change its nature to that of a sheep, it would shun the mud and head for green grass.

II. MANAGED BY COMMANDS

- A. Commanded to be segregated - Deut. 22:10
 1. The ox and donkey are different animals.
 - a. The ox was clean; the donkey was not.
 - b. The ox was designed to pull loads; the donkey to carry them
 - c. Yoking them together was to invited trouble on several levels
 2. "Unequal yoke" is a military term, meaning to "stay within you own ranks." For Christians it would mean not marching in step with the world
 - a. 1Cor. 15:33
- B. Commanded to be separated
 1. The church is a "called out people" and therefore their manner of life demonstrates that they have been separated from the world
 2. 1Cor. 9:19-23 - Paul did not alter his lifestyle and message to accommodate different crowds of people; he adapted his personal customs and manner of teaching to fit the precise needs of the hearers, in a way that would facilitate hearing without changing the message

III. MOVED BY CONSOLATIONS

- A. Consolation of His favor - 2Cor. 6:17
 1. The word "receive" - eisdechomai - means to take into one's favor; receive; to accept favorably - A promise of God to accept us
- B. Consolation of His fatherhood - 2Cor. 6:18
 1. One can have a relationship without having fellowship; one can be a child of God, but because of sin or cold hearts, not have the comfort of fellowship with Him.

IV. MOTIVATED TO CONVICTIONS

- A. Motivated to a clean walk - 2Cor. 7:1; Gal. 5:19-21; Matt. 15:18-19
 1. We must actively cleanse ourselves both inwardly and outwardly
- B. Motivated to a consecrated walk - Col. 1:27; Gal. 2:20, 5:22-25
 1. By resisting and avoiding sin in all its forms - 1Cor. 10:13

Conclusion:

- A. Jesus glorified God by living in the crux between contrast and connection
 1. Heb. 7:26; Luke 7:34; Phil. 2:15