

Contrasts in Connection

2Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1

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- “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people. 17 Therefore Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. 18 I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty. 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

Contrasts in Connection

- We are called to be different from the world
 - 1Peter 2:9-10 - “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”
 - Eph. 5:8 - “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light”

Contrasts in Connection

- We are called to be different from the world
 - Titus 2:14 - “Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”
 - Rev. 1:5-6 - “...Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father...”

Contrasts in Connection

- Corinth was known for its carnality.
 - 1Cor. 3:1 - “And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.”
 - 1Cor. 5:1 - “It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles--that a man has his father's wife!”

Contrasts in Connection

- Separate from the world does not mean maintain distance between you and those needing salvation
 - Mark 2:16-17 - “And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners? 17 When Jesus heard it, He said to them, Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

Contrasts in Connection

- Nor does it mean that we are uniquely special because of some quality or inherent virtue
 - 2Tim. 1:9 - “Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began”

Marked By Contrasts

- A contrast in our walk
 - Phil. 1:27 - “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel”
 - Rom. 13:14 - “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”

Marked By Contrasts

- A contrast in our wisdom
 - 1John 1:7 - “This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.”
 - Psalm 119:9 - “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.”
 - John 14:21-23 - “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him. 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world? 23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”

Marked By Contrasts

- A contrast in our worship
 - 1Cor. 10:15-22 - “I speak as to wise men; judge for yourselves what I say. 16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? 17 For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread. 18 Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? 19 What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? 20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons. 22 Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?”

Marked By Contrasts

- God's people are different from the world because they have a new nature
 - 2Cor. 5:17 - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."
 - 2Peter 1:3-4 - "As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

Managed By Commands

- Commanded to be segregated
 - Deut. 22:10 - “You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together.”
 - 1Cor. 15:33 - “Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.”

Managed By Commands

- Commanded to be separated
 - 1Cor. 9:19-23 - “For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; 20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; 21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; 22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. 23 Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.”

Moved By Consolations

- Consolation of His favor
 - 2Cor. 6:17 - “Therefore Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.”
- The word “receive” - eisdechomai - means “to take into one's favor; receive; to accept favorably” (Strong's)

Moved By Consolations

- Consolation of His fatherhood
 - 2Cor. 6:18 - “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty”

Motivated To Convictions

- Motivated to a clean walk
 - 2Cor. 7:1 - “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”
 - Matt. 15:18-19 - “But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”

Motivated To Convictions

- Motivated to a consecrated walk
 - Col. 1:27 - “To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”
 - Gal. 2:20 - “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”
 - 1Cor. 10:13 - “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

Contrasts in Connection

- Jesus glorified God by living in the crux between contrast and connection
 - Heb. 7:26 - “For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens”
 - Luke 7:34 - “Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God!”
 - Phil. 2:15 - “that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world”