

Assurance of Salvation
Part 105

SEPARATION FROM
THE WORLD:

A warning against being
"unequally yoked."

Last week, we saw that:

God's people do not belong
to this world.

But our **citizenship** is in heaven. Philip. 3:20a (ESV)

IN THIS WORLD...
[We are]... **aliens** and **strangers** ...*
1 Peter 2:11a (NASB)

* (often translated as "foreigners and exiles")

TRANSLATION: "This leaves us
with a 'FUTURE FOCUS'!"

Γόμε φηçC-|YsoŁσγ



Because of this:

God's people have a "future focus"
that results in "now obligations."

THIS INFLUENCES:

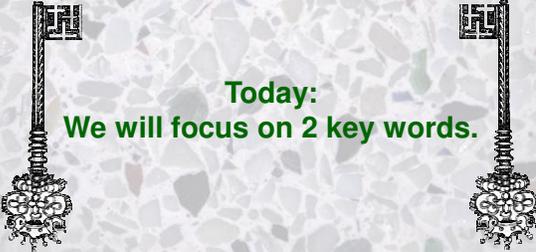
- Our attitudes.
- Our values.
- Our friendships.
- [And more...]

[It will influence all of life.]

As we begin to look at this issue:

There are a number of questions and
issues to examine.

Today:
We will focus on 2 key words.



KEY WORDS:

YOKE and
INCOMPATIBLE

YOKE???



Do not be **yoked** together with
unbelievers. 2 Cor. 6:14a (NIV)

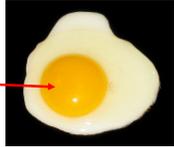


YOKE???

Do not be **yoked** together with unbelievers.

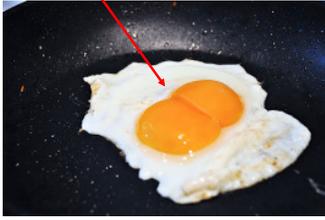
2 Cor. 6:14a (NIV)

"YOKE" does not refer to this!

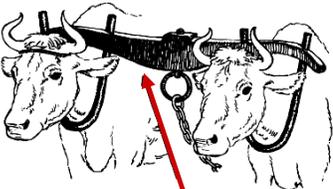


[This is a "YOLK." NO JOKE!]

And "YOKED TOGETHER" does not refer to this!



In the Bible, a "YOKE" refers to:



- A wooden bar or frame placed on the neck of two animals, so that they can perform a heavy task together (such as pulling a plow).

EXAMPLE



To be "equally yoked," the animals must be similar in size and nature.

The need for cooperation.

- **When the animals work together in cooperation...**
 - The task or burden is shared and is much easier than when done alone.
- **When they are not cooperating...**
 - One might end up doing most of the work.
 - They may work against each other (= wasted energy).
 - Nothing may get accomplished.

Symbolism based on this word

- **In a positive way:** In the sense of "working together" as a team.
- **In a negative way:** In the sense of "servitude" or "slavery."
 - To "break the yoke" often meant release from bondage.

&
THE
WORD:

"INCOMPATIBLE"?

- Unable to work together in harmony.
- Opposing in character; unable to coexist without discord.
-
- Conflict, discord, antagonism, opposites, etc.

KEY CONCEPT

*There is a basic
INCOMPATIBILITY between
God's family and **the world**.*

**THIS IS WHY
SCRIPTURE
TELLS US:**

Do not be **yoked** together
with unbelievers.
2 Cor. 6:14a (NIV)

Saved / unsaved... "INCOMPATIBLE"?

Do not be **yoked** together with unbelievers.
2 Cor. 6:14a (NIV)

This concept: *

- **Is found throughout Scripture.**
 - It's not just an obscure "proof text" buried somewhere in the Bible.
- **Is found in many contexts.**
 - It's related to all of life.

* (Though not with the word "yoke.")

Saved / unsaved... "INCOMPATIBLE"?

Do not be **yoked** together with unbelievers.
2 Cor. 6:14a (NIV)

- It does *not* mean** there can't be points of agreement!
- **On the surface**, there can be cooperation.
--- BUT ---
 - **The deepest motives and intents** of the heart will be opposites.

This is why Scripture says...

For what do **righteousness** and **wickedness** have in common?
Or what fellowship can **light** have with **darkness**?
What harmony is there between **Christ** and **Belial**?
What does a **believer** have in common with an **unbeliever**?
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. 6:14b-16 (NIV)

All this implies an OBLIGATION:

"Therefore **come out from** them and **be separate**, says the Lord. **TOUCH NO** unclean thing, and I will receive you."
"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."
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. 6:17-7:1 (NIV)

All this implies an OBLIGATION:

LOOK AT WHAT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS COMAND...

and I will receive you."
"I will be a Father to you,
and you will be my sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty."

WORDS ABOUT SALVATION!

★ **The two concepts are connected!** ★

? **WHAT IF you chose to**
NOT ?
obey this command?

• You won't hurt GOD!

--- BUT ---

• You will devastate YOURSELF.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO DEFY GOD (who gave you this instruction),
THERE ARE ONLY 2 OPTIONS:

- **OPTION #1: Most likely, it means you are unsaved, or a FAKE.**

I KNOW WHAT GOD SAYS, BUT I CHOOSE TO GO AGAINST IT!

(But then, FAKES are unsaved.)

Do not be **yoked** together with unbelievers.
2 Cor. 6:14a (NIV)

- **OPTION #2: Suppose you aren't a FAKE:**

FIRST OF ALL (if this is you):
YOU CAN'T STAY THIS WAY!

- You are *living a contradiction.*
- You will either have to repent, or else completely reject Jesus Christ.

I LOVE JESUS... BUT I HATE TO OBEY HIM!!

Do not be **yoked** together with unbelievers.
2 Cor. 6:14a (NIV)

- **[OPTION #2: (CONTINUED)]**

As for choosing to be unequally yoked:

- You will learn the truth of this passage; but it will be a *very unpleasant* "learning experience."
- The YOKE you have chosen will be one of difficulty, conflict, loneliness, sorrow.
- You will have a constant tug-of-war between conflicting values.
- You may end up regretting your choice *the rest of your life.*

- **[OPTION #2: (CONTINUED)]**

★ You will discover that the **"YOKE of obedience"** that **Jesus** offers is a *much better choice.*

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
Matthew 11:29-30 (ESV)

The "YOKE of disobedience" is a whole lot more burdensome!

Your mission:
CHOOSE YOUR YOKE!
 (You can choose only ONE.)

- **A YOKE that is easy and light?**
 (The "YOKE of obedience")
- **A YOKE that will result in a life-long burden of incompatibility?**
 (An "unequal YOKE")

Do not be **yoked** together with unbelievers.
 2 Cor. 6:14a (NIV)

As for the YOLK:
CHOOSE ALL YOU WANT!*

That's a JOKE, not a YOKE!

I hope I didn't scramble your mind!!

*(If you aren't allergic to eggs.)

Credits (1)

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