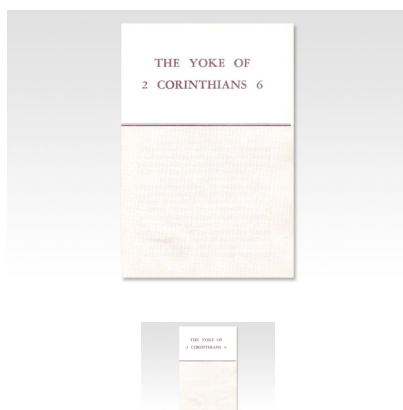




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Description

Will you kindly reply to the following queries?

FIRST: How far does the passage 2 Corinthians 6: 14-17, "Be ye not unequally yoked," etc., apply to the Christian NOW?

(a) In the forming of business relations between believer and unbeliever, as in partnerships.

(b) In respect of business relationships, partnerships, already so formed.

(c) In the forming of marriage ties as between believer and unbeliever.

SECOND: Has the word in Deuteronomy 7:2, "thou shalt make no covenant with them," and in verse 3, "Neither shalt thou make marriages with them," any application? Also Lev. 19: 19; Deut. 22: 9-11; Ezra 10. Have these any bearing on the subject?

My Dear Brother,

On the point you write about I cannot hesitate a moment in stating what I feel.

The principles in 2 Corinthians 6:14-17 are as general and absolute as possible. Christ has no concord with Belial anywhere, nor the temple of God with idols. God does not walk in our midst only in worship. I am not to touch unclean things everywhere, not in worship merely. I am not to touch it anywhere. Being yoked is not worship. It is everything which brings us to community of thought and moral judgment ... everything which puts two to pull together where moral principles are concerned. "Perfecting holiness in the fear of God" is the conclusion. What is above all to be dreaded as to the saints now, is relaxation of their principles in a worldly way. Evident immorality would be at once judged, or anything gross perhaps in worldliness, but it is this tendency to loosen the absoluteness and universality of Christ as a motive, which tends to eat out the spiritual life.

You are quite at liberty to use this as a testimony which I would make as strong as I possibly could against any such unholy and condemned yoke. The passage applies to marriage, to partnerships, because it applies to everything where people have to walk together on some common principle, and the Christian is to bring in Christ as his one and only motive for everything. An unbeliever cannot do this, for he has not the motive, and it is impossible they can act together.

The Old Testament applies so far as that general principles of what God delights in, what pleases Him, are brought to light in it. I do not think we can feel too strongly as to the evil there is in what you speak of.

Your affectionate brother in Christ.

J. N. DARBY.

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