

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for October 24, 2010

“Do Not Be Bound Together With Unbelievers”
2 Corinthians 6:14-16

What are the basic elements of Paul’s carefully structured climax of his apostolic defense in 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1?

The first element is Paul’s command to “not be bound together with unbelievers” (2 Corinthians 6:14).

The second element is a group of five rhetorical questions each anticipating a negative answer, that Paul believed supported his command to “not be bound together with unbelievers” (2 Corinthians 6:14-16c).

The first rhetorical question that Paul asked was, “What partnership have righteousness and lawlessness?” (2 Corinthians 6:14).

According to Romans 6:19, before we were reconciled to God we were slaves of lawlessness, but after we are reconciled, God expects us to be slaves of righteousness.

The second rhetorical question that Paul asked was, “Or what fellowship has light with darkness?” (2 Corinthians 6:14).

It is out of the domain of darkness that sinful man needs to be delivered, so that he might be transferred to the kingdom of Christ according to Colossians 1:13.

The third rhetorical question that Paul asked was, “Or what harmony has Christ with Belial?” (2 Corinthians 6:15).

Because Satan is personally opposed to God, which is connoted in his name “Belial,” any harmony between them is impossible and any harmony between their respective citizens should be unthinkable.

The fourth rhetorical question that Paul asked was, “Or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?” (2 Corinthians 6:15).

The fifth rhetorical question that Paul asked was, “Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols?” (2 Corinthians 6:16).

When Paul used the word “temple” (NAOS), he most likely was referring not to the general temple complex, but to the holy of holies where God’s presence was manifested.

Paul was able to identify the believers in Corinth with the holy of holies, because the Spirit was presently indwelling them as recipients of the new covenant message (1 Corinthians 3:16).

May we by the grace of God understand the stark contrast that exists between the unbeliever and the believer, and that we might live accordingly.