

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for October 31, 2010

“Do Not Be Bound Together With Unbelievers”
2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

What are the basic elements of the carefully structured climax of Paul’s 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 third element consisted of two promises that Paul believed also supported the command “not to be bound with unbelievers” (2 Corinthians 6:16d-7:1).

The first promise that Paul referenced was a promise of intimacy (2 Corinthians 6:16).

The promise of future intimacy that Paul quoted in 2 Corinthians 6:16 is a compilation of two Old Testament texts given to the nation of Israel in Leviticus 26:11-12 and Ezekiel 37:27.

The exhortations that Paul quoted in 2 Corinthians 6:16 are based on Isaiah 52:11 and Ezekiel 20:34.

The second promise that Paul referenced was the promise of future personal adoption (2 Corinthians 6:18).

The promise of future adoption that Paul quoted in 2 Corinthians 6:16 was based on a compilation of three Old Testament verses given to the nation of Israel in 2 Samuel 7:14, Isaiah 43:6 and Ezekiel 20:34.

Paul, in 2 Corinthians 7:1, in response to the promises the Corinthians had been given, exhorted them to make a complete break from every form of unhealthy compromise, both external and internal.

May God give us the grace as the recipients of the promises of the new covenant to live in a manner consistent with having received those promises.