

Equally-Unequally Yoked

“What Does It Mean To Be Equally Yoked?” Equally Yoked is a phrase that is often times used to justify a decision made about a relationship or marriage. I have heard people say that they were not Equally Yoked with someone because of a different upbringing, decision making process, beliefs, finances, education, location and even appearance. That stuff has nothing to do with being Equally Yoked! What’s funny is that the phrase “Equally Yoked” does not specifically refer to marriage. Actually, the phrase “Equally Yoked” is not found in Scripture (the Bible).

II Corinthians 6:14 says, “Do not be Unequally Yoked (bound together) with unbelievers . . .” It doesn’t say relationships, it doesn’t say marriage but its implication is that of any relationship with another person. A relationship with another person could be a marriage.

OWYAZL (Yahusha) said: For my Yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light (not burdensome)." **Matthew 11:30**

Recall the story of the lawyer who asked **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) what was the Greatest Commandment of the Torah (Law) **Matthew 22:36**. You can almost read between the lines of the man’s question: “What law, of all the laws we have, do I absolutely have to keep?” Because the “Yoke of the Pharisees” is the burdensome Yoke of self-righteousness and legalistic law-keeping. It has been said by Scriptural scholars that the Pharisees had added over 600 regulations regarding what qualified as “working” on the Sabbath. That is a heavy burden!

OWYAZL (Yahusha) tells all who are weary and burdened to come to Him for rest. He isn’t speaking here of physical burdens. Rather, it was the heavy burden of the system of works that the Pharisees laid on the backs of the people that **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) was offering to relieve. Later on in Matthew’s Gospel, **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) will rebuke the Pharisees for laying heavy burdens on the shoulders of the people **Matthew 23:4**.

OWYAZL (Yahusha) took the entirety of the 613 Mosaic laws, and all of the extra (Traditions) that the “Religious Leader” added in, and summed it up by telling us that those that Love him will obey the Commandments, which he broke down into (2) Two Commandments. **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) tells us in **Matthew 22:40** On these (2) Two Commandments depend the whole Torah (Law) and the Prophets.

- 1). Love **AYAZL** (Yahuah) (Commandments 1-4)
- 2). Love People (Neighbors) (Commandments 5-10)

Why is his Yoke easy? Because we are to love **AYAZL** (Yahuah) with all our Heart, our Souls and our Mind, and to love our Neighbor as ourself, which fulfills the 10 Commandments.

Being Equally Yoked

Reading Scripture (the Bible) together does not make you Equally Yoked, but is part of what is required! Having a Great friendship does not mean that you are Equally Yoked. Having things in common does not mean that you are Equally Yoked. Being

in love does not mean that you are Equally Yoked. Being married does not mean that you are Equally Yoked.

Being Equally Yoked initially doesn't have anything to do with your love for another person or your relationship or marriage to another person. The (1st) first thing you have to do is be a believer in אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah)'s word. (2) Two people who are in a relationship or marriage and are believers in אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah)/OWYָּאֵל (Yahusha) and are obedient to his Commandments are Equally Yoked.

Confirming that (2) two people are Equally Yoked is what we should do at the beginning of any relationship. In my humble opinion, being Equally Yoked is about (2) two believers who share a spiritual connection with אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah)/OWYָּאֵל (Yahusha) and are focused on walking together in agreement to fulfill the Will of the Father for both their lives. Each one has their own calling (purpose), their own destiny, but to fulfill it usually requires the talents or skills that the other person possesses, thus it requires both of their gifts, talents and obedience to fulfill their destiny and purpose, which they were created to fulfill. You both are working together to fulfill the shared goal and purpose, Yoked together and if in a Marriage it also is accompanied by the Marriage Covenant that Yokes you together.

Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." **1 Corinthians 15:33**

So what does it really mean to be Equally Yoked? I believe there are 21 ways to tell if you and your partner are equally yoked:

1. Your understanding, passion, and love of OWYָּאֵל (Yahusha) and אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) are similar.
2. You both have a desire to grow and propel the other towards OWYָּאֵל (Yahusha) and אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah).
3. You both understand and agree that אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) should be (1st) first in each other's lives.
4. You both do not feel jealous about the other's relationship with OWYָּאֵל (Yahusha) and אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) (in fact you encourage it).
5. You understand (1) one another's vision and the role that you play in the vision.
6. You are committed to helping the other person become all אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) has created them to be.
7. You both encourage and contend for righteous living in your decisions and choices.
8. You have similar passions whether in ministry, career, or goals.
9. You both have at least (5) five similar core values about Amanah (faith), family, finances, and your future.
10. You both do not allow the other to settle, but use your strengths and gifts to push each other to become better.
11. You can name at least (3) three qualities in the other that you want to emulate.

12. You understand each other's weakness and you help correct and cover them.
13. If courting or married, you can both convey clearly the mission and vision of your marriage.
14. You encourage the other in their disciplines with **יְהוָה** (Yahuah).
15. You pray together.
16. You have a similar understanding of family and child rearing.
17. You have a clear understanding of what it will take to help each other's dreams come true.
18. You worship **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) at home or in public together.
19. You study the word of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) and challenge each other in it.
20. Your idea of success is similar.
21. You both have a clear understanding of your roles in marriage and you can see how you both fit together.

Unequally Yoked

The phrase "Unequally Yoked" comes from **2 Corinthians 6:14** "Do not be "Unequally Yoked" (bound) together with unbelievers; for what partnership have Righteousness and Lawlessness, or what fellowship has Light with Darkness?"

The phrase "Unequally Yoked together" is the translation of just (1) one Greek word, heterozugeo, which is a compound word that means, "to yoke up differently; to associate discordantly; unequally yoke together." It is used but this (1) one time in Scripture (the Bible).

The word "Yoke" means a coupling as when (2) two Oxen are coupled or Yoked together by a pulling beam to do work such as plowing a field or pulling a wagon.' A Yoke is a wooden bar that joins (2) two Oxen to each other and to the burden they pull. An "Unequally Yoked" team has (1) one stronger Ox and (1) one weaker, or (1) one taller and (1) one shorter. The weaker or shorter Ox would walk more slowly than the taller, stronger (1) one, causing the load to go around in circles. When Oxen are Unequally Yoked, they cannot perform the task set before them. Instead of working together, they are at odds with one another. The same thing pertains to us when we are Unequally Yoked with an UnBeliever, as we will be at odds with one another as well.

Yokes were used to fasten (2) two animals together, often Oxen, to pull carts, wagons, plows, or used to even pull tree stumps out. Not surprisingly, the word Yoke is associated with "servitude" but it could also mean indentured or enslaved too, because **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) told Jeremiah that "any nation that will bring its neck under the Yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him, I will leave on its own land, to work it and dwell there, declares **יְהוָה** (Yahuah)" **Jeremiah 27:11**.

If animals were not matched correctly the work would not be efficiently done and the results would be almost futile. In other words, it was unwise to Yoke an Ox and a Horse or a young Ox with (1) one that is very old because they would not walk

together at the same time and (1) one would pull more of the load than the other. If the (2) two didn't walk together then they would laboriously work and it would be unproductive and exceedingly tedious.

And so Paul is telling the Corinthians congregation which was steeped in Paganism and their cities peppered with Pagan temples, that they should not be "Unequally" Yoked with those that practiced Paganism or any works of Darkness. What does this remind us of today? They were to avoid: "Unbelievers, Unrighteousness, Darkness, Belial, Infidels, and Idols." There it is. That's the list Paul gave them, exactly as we read above. Nothing is mentioned about marriage, but it does apply to marriage.

So what did Paul mean? Well, (1st) first of all it is not possible to live in a country, state, county, city, or village without constantly coming in contact with just such people. Even **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) Himself prayed and specified to His Father exactly how He desired for us to live under such circumstances in this life: **John 17:15** I pray not that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the Evil.

In a sense **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) was requesting that His disciples would "not be Unequally Yoked together with Unbelievers."

Deuteronomy: 22:9 You shall not sow your vineyard with a (2nd) second kind of seed. 10 You shall not plow with an Ox and a Donkey yoked together. 11 You shall not wear clothes made of wool and linen woven together.

These commands are connected to the creation account in **Genesis 1** in which **AYAZL** (Yahuah) established an order in the world that is part of creation itself. The idea of separating and setting boundaries, even among plants and animals ("each after its kind"), expresses the idea that there is a certain way **AYAZL** (Yahuah)'s world should work, that there are certain boundaries and limits within, which creation can exist. Theologically, this was understood to mean that some things should not be mixed in order to preserve the proper working of **AYAZL** (Yahuah)'s world.

The Yisraelites then applied this ethically, for example, in laws governing sexual relations that banned bestiality and homosexuality. Religiously, it was extended to things like using (2) two different kinds of animals yoked together for plowing. It was not just a legalism, but an attempt to live out in all aspects of life what they understood to be **AYAZL** (Yahuah)'s purposes for his world that he had created.

Paul, the Pharisee that he was, no doubt understood well all of this and thus applied this principle in addressing the church at Corinth **2 Corinthians 6:14**. In many evangelical churches, this verse from Corinthians has been used very narrowly as a warning against marrying Non-Believers. But in the situation at Corinth, it had much broader implications. Corinth was well known for its wild lifestyle. It was a major seaport and a crossroad of the northern Mediterranean. The Middle Eastern practice of sacred prostitution in pagan temples was readily accepted in such a climate, as well as in some of the Greek temples that stood there in the (1st) first century.

Paul's admonition in **2 Corinthians 6:14** is part of a larger discourse to the church at Corinth on the Believers life. He discouraged them from being in an unequal

partnership with unbelievers because believers and unbelievers are opposites, just as light and darkness are opposites. They simply have nothing in common, just as Masiach (Messiah) has nothing in common with “Belial,” a Hebrew word meaning “worthlessness” (verse 15). Here Paul uses it to refer to HaSatan. The idea is that the pagan, wicked, unbelieving world is governed by the principles of HaSatan and that Believers should be separate from that wicked world, just as Mashiach (Messiah) was separate from all the methods, purposes, and plans of HaSatan. He had no participation in them; He formed no union with them, and so it should be with the followers of the one in relation to the followers of the other. Attempting to live a Set Apart life with a non-Believer will only cause us to go around in circles.

The “Unequal Yoke” is often applied to business relationships. For a Believer to enter into a partnership with an Unbeliever is to court disaster. Unbelievers have opposite worldviews and morals, and business decisions made daily will reflect the worldview of (1) one partner or the other. For the relationship to work, (1) one or the other must abandon his moral center and move toward that of the other. More often than not, it is the believer who finds himself pressured to leave his principles behind for the sake of profit and the growth of the business.

Of course, the closest alliance (1) one person can have with another is found in marriage, and this is how the passage is usually interpreted. אַחַד (Yahuah)’s plan is for a man and a woman to become “(1) one flesh” (**Genesis 2:24**), a relationship so intimate that (1) one literally and figuratively becomes part of the other. Uniting a believer with an unbeliever is essentially uniting opposites, which makes for a very difficult marriage relationship.

So, is dating someone who doesn’t share your beliefs really such a big deal? Actually, yes.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 is the often cited verse calling believers to be “equally yoked”. But many believers fail to see why this command from the Apostle Paul is so important. Others disregard with it completely.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Mashiach (Messiah) with Belial (worthlessness) ? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of אַחַד (Yahuah) with Idols? For we are the temple of the living Alahym (God); as OWHASHA (Yahusha) said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their Alahym (God), and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says אַחַד (Yahuah), and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be Sons and Daughters to me, says אַחַד (Yahuah) Almighty.”

Because of the NT commentaries many woman today feel that they are “Unequally Yoked” to their man and trapped in an unresolvable situation. But can a woman who is bone of her man’s bone and flesh of her man’s flesh really be Unequally Yoked?

This False Image in our minds concerning a woman being “Unequally Yoked” to her man comes from a misinterpretation of what Paul is actually saying in his writings. And these same commentaries have become the excuse for many a woman to leave

her man. And this is all accomplished with the supported of many religious organizations (a.k.a. churches).

Today the world has spun so far out of alignment with **יְהוָה** (Yahuah)'s system of government for the family that the guidelines, which are in accordance with His created purpose, are now seen and treated as Evil.

Woe to those who call Evil good, and good Evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! ... because they have rejected the Torah (law) of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) of hosts, and despised the word of the Kadosh (Holy) (1) One of Yisrael. **Isaiah 5:20-21, 24**

Being Unequally Yoked is more dangerous than you think – and waiting for someone with whom you share the same Spiritual heritage is far more rewarding than many believe.

(1) One of the major problems Paul faced in Corinth was the difficulty new converts there had in living out their beliefs ethically in everyday actions. This concept of boundaries and order in terms of everyday living was a good way to illustrate the ethical demands of relationship with **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) without resorting to legalism.

A (2nd) second major problem that Paul is addressing in both Corinthian letters is the problem of Spiritual Pride that had led some in the community to pervert Paul's teaching about spiritual freedom. Paul maintained that we have freedom in Mashiach (Messiah), that relationship with **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) is obeying Torah (law) under the motivation of love from the heart. Yet some Corinthians had taken that to the point of maintaining that nothing they did mattered since they believed they were free from the Torah (law) **1 Corinthians 6:12**.

This was easier to do in the environment of Corinthian Greek culture that, following Plato, assumed that the physical world was irrelevant and unimportant since the only true reality was Spirit, the "inner" person. So, they concluded, what their body had nothing to do with their relationship with **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) since that was a "Spiritual" matter. Paul had already addressed this issue quite strongly throughout the (1st) first letter, especially the implications of their libertine (one devoid of most moral or sexual restraints) views in Sexual matters that included sacred prostitution **1 Corinthians 6:9-20**.

The passage in **2 Corinthians 6** seems to be against the background of this problem. Both the tendency toward Spiritual Pride resulting from how they conceptualized human beings and the lack of clearly conceived ethics worked together to allow a lifestyle that Paul felt did not represent in practice what it meant to bear the name Yahudim (Believer).

The reference to temples and idols suggests that Paul is still addressing the Corinthians tendency to try to blend the worship of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) with the activities that went on the Pagan temples. In other words, the people wanted to be Yahudim (Believers) while still partaking of all the activities that Marked the Worship of the Greek gods. The attitude seemed to be that they could be Spiritually pure on the "inside" while the physical body could still enjoy the wild Pagan lifestyle of Corinth.

To this, Paul simply answers that they cannot be mixed, that **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah)'s people must be Marked by a different kind of lifestyle than others, and that lifestyle cannot be mixed with a Pagan (Christian) lifestyle. Using the Tanakh (OT) principle of preserving boundaries between things that should not be mixed, Paul simply says that being Yahudim (Believers) means that the Corinthians can no longer practice the activities of Pagan Worship or Pagan ethics, since those are things that should not be mixed with the worship of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah). In other words, what they did ethically mattered a great deal if they were claiming to be Yahudim (Believers).

Practically, this could apply to a lot of areas of life, but not as a rigid law. It is a matter of ethics that must come from the freedom in Mashiach (Messiah) that Paul makes clear. But that freedom does not mean, Paul contends, that we are not compelled by love of both **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) and neighbor. So, it might, indeed, have some practical ethical application in the case of a Believer dating or marrying a Non-Believer. Again, it is not a matter of Torah (law). But it is a matter of allowing **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) to be **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah), and recognizing that when we are his people, his Sons and Daughters (**2 Corinthians 6:18**), that means we are in a relationship of love that constrains our freedom for the sake of that love **1 Corinthians 13**.

The result is a lifestyle that is "Cleansed & Purified" from such contamination with Pagan practices such as visiting temple prostitutes (**2 Corinthians 7:1**), because someone who truly loves **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) as a Son or Daughter would not contaminate themselves with such practices. In other words, Paul is simply answering that it does, indeed, make a difference what the body does since that cannot be separated from who we are as Sons and Daughters of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah).

Of course, the next question will be, "But what does that mean today?" We want a single answer to this question, a list of rules to follow. And we too often either fall in love with the list of rules we make (legalism), or we revert back to the Corinthian view and think that there really are no rules (postmodern relativism). Yet what Paul calls us to in Corinthians is a lifestyle that is governed by love **1 Corinthians 13**. That is really what separates us from the "Unclean" things around us. And Paul notes in another writing that it is often up to us to decide how we should practice that love as Believers **Philippians 2:12-23**. Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure."

That simply places a great deal of emphasis on Believers ethics, as the outworking of the "Royal Law of Love" **James 2:8**. And that principle is precisely what Paul is using in the letters to the church at Corinth **1 Corinthians 13**.

Dating an Unbeliever is Disobedience

אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) has always cared about the unions His people make – as evidenced by His relationship with Yisrael.

In **Deuteronomy 7**, Moshe (Moses) is instructing the Yisraelites in their responsibilities as the people of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah). They have been freed from slavery and are now free men, about to enter the Promised Land Moshe (Moses) gives a warning:

“You shall make no covenant with [the people of the land] and show no favor to

them. Furthermore, you shall not intermarry with them... for they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other Alahym (gods)..." **Deuteronomy 7:3-4**

Fast forward several hundred years, and we find Yisrael in direct rebellion against **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah)'s command:

"The sons of Yisrael lived among the Canaanites...; and they took their daughters for themselves as wives, and gave their own daughters to their sons and served their Alahym (gods)." **Judges 3:5-6**

It probably didn't seem so harmful at (1st) first. Perhaps the Yisraelites felt like there weren't enough women, or there weren't enough men to go around. However they rationalized it, the Yisraelites formed covenants between themselves and people who neither knew nor served **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah). In so doing, they were led astray.

Over and over in Scripture we see this theme repeated. (2) Two are Samson, who repeatedly sought out unbelieving women, a choice which in the end destroyed him (**Judges 14**), and Solomon, the wisest man in the world – until his many wives led him to worship other Alahym (gods) **1 Kings 11**.

Uniting ourselves to people who do not love, follow, or submit to **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) and **וְיָהוּשָׁע** (Yahusha) is direct disobedience.

Intimacy is Impossible Without Spiritual Unity

If **וְיָהוּשָׁע** (Yahusha) HaMashiach is truly King of our lives, our most intimate selves should be submitted to His influence. How then can we unite a Spirit-led soul to one in Rebellion against **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah)?

This rubs people the wrong way, because no matter how respectful, sweet, or "loving" an unbelieving partner is, They are at odds with **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) – they are in rebellion. But if we call ourselves Believers, we're saying we believe the Scripture is our final authority. Scripture says that all have Sinned and fallen short of the esteem (glory) of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah), and that without **וְיָהוּשָׁע** (Yahusha) we are "bound by our transgressions", conformed to the world, "living by the cravings of our flesh" and "by nature, children of wrath". **Ephesians 2:1-3** This is who we are without **וְיָהוּשָׁע** (Yahusha). This is who everyone is apart from **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) and **וְיָהוּשָׁע** (Yahusha).

Therefore, those of us in **וְיָהוּשָׁע** (Yahusha) cannot be in a harmonious, **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah)-pleasing relationship with an unbeliever. There is no fellowship between light and darkness **2 Corinthians 7:14**! The Greek word for "fellowship" in this passage literally means contact or intimacy. Through Paul's words, we learn that intimacy with unbelievers is not just discouraged – it's impossible.

אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) knows this. It's why he commanded the Yisraelites to marry within the Family of Believers, and it's why He inspired Paul to issue the same command. This is for our Spiritual protection!

Righteousness has nothing in common with a person who believes they are good enough apart from **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah): "For what do Righteousness and Wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Mashiach (Messiah) and Belial (worthless, lawless person) ? Or what does a Believer have in common with an Unbeliever?"

No relationship apart from **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah)/**וְיֵשׁוּעַ** (Yahusha) can be truly “good” **Mark 10:18**. No “love” apart from **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah)/**וְיֵשׁוּעַ** (Yahusha) is truly love **1 John 4:16-17**. It may look like these things from the outside, but will never be unified within.

Your Body is a Sanctuary of Worship

Paul’s mandate to be “Equally Yoked” isn’t found in a list of Commandments; it was written to the struggling church at Corinth, a group of people confused about how to live for Mashiach (Messiah) in a corrupt World. That’s why he took the time to explain why being Equal Yoking is essential to the Believers life:

“What agreement can exist between the Temple of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) and Idols? For we are the Temple of the Living Alahym (God).

Your body is the new Temple. As a follower of **וְיֵשׁוּעַ** (Yahusha), the Ruach (Spirit) of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) dwells in you. This is why **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) calls us to “Come out from among them, and be Separate (Set Apart).” He’s not telling us to be unloving – we are called to love unbelievers **1 Peter 2:12**. **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) is calling us to love Him more than we love our own desire for a relationship. He’s calling us to be a place of Worship.

This is a call to reconsider your view of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) and dating. **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) cares about our relationships because He care about us. He cares about our purity because that is what keeps us in relationship with Him! Our Kadoshness (holiness) declares the message louder than our words. Unequal Yoking hinders our walk with **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) – the (1) one thing we need more than anything else.

1 Corinthians 6:16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The (2) two will become (1) one flesh.”

1 Corinthians 7:12-15 To the rest I say (I, not **וְיֵשׁוּעַ** (Yahusha) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is made Kadosh (Holy) because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made Kadosh (Holy) because of her husband. Otherwise your Children would be Unclean, but as it is, they are Kadosh (Holy). But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) has called you to Shalum (Peace).

Deuteronomy 7:3-4 You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other Alahym (gods). Then the anger of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Adon (Master) **וְיֵשׁוּעַ** (Yahusha) HaMashiach, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in a disorderly manner and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.

Ephesians 5:11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead

expose them.

2 Timothy 3:5 Having the appearance of Righteousness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

3 John 1:11 Beloved, do not imitate Evil but imitate Good. Whoever does Good is from אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah); whoever does Evil has not seen (Does not know) אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah).

2 John 1:9 Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Mashiach (Messiah), does not have אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah). Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

1 Corinthians 7:1-40 Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have Sexual Relations with a Woman." But because of the temptation to Sexual Immorality, each man should have his own Wife and each Woman her own Husband. The Husband should give to his Wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the Wife to her Husband. For the Wife does not have authority over her own body, but the Husband does. Likewise the Husband does not have authority over his own body, but the Wife does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to Prayer; but then come together again, so that HaSatan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Amos 3:3 "Do (2) two walk together, unless they have agreed to meet?"

Ephesians 5:22-33 Wives, submit to your own Husbands, as to Oװאַל (Yahusha). For the Husband is the head of the Wife even as Mashiach (Messiah) is the head of the Believers, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the Believers submits to Mashiach (Messiah), so also wives should submit in everything to their Husbands. Husbands, love your Wives, as Mashiach (Messiah) loved the Believers and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, Husbands, live with your Wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the Woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

1 Corinthians 7:39 A Wife is bound to her Husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah).

Luke 16:18 "Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.

Matthew 19:9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his Wife, except for Sexual Immorality, and Marries another, commits Adultery."

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee from Sexual Immorality. Every other Sin a person commits is outside the body, but the Sexually Immoral person Sins against his own Body.

Matthew 7:16-20 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 But test everything; hold fast what is good.

Romans 12:9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

2 Timothy 2:12 If we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;

James 1:27 Belief that is pure and undefiled before אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), the Father, is this: to visit Orphans and Widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the World.

Acts 5:29 But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) rather than men.

Romans 5:1-21 Therefore, since we have been justified by Amanah (Faith), we have Shalum (Peace) with אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) through our Adon (Master) אֱלֹהֵינוּ (Yahusha) HaMasiach. Through him we have also obtained access by Amanah (Faith) into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the esteem (glory) of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah). More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)'s love has been poured into our hearts through the Ruach HaKodesh who has been given to us.

Psalms 1:1 Baruch (Blessed) is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of Sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers.

Acts 2:1-47 When the day of Shava'ot (Pentecost) arrived, they were all together in (1) one place. And suddenly there came from Shamyim (Heavens) a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Ruach HaKodesh and began to speak in other tongues as the Ruach (Spirit) gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Yerusalem Hebrews, devout men from every nation under Shamyim (Heavens).

Genesis 1:28 And אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) Baruch (Blessed) them. And אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the Shamyim (heavens) and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

1 Timothy 3:2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the Husband of (1) one Wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach.

Ephesians 5:27 So that he might present the Believers to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be Kadosh (Holy) and without blemish.

Putting it all Together

Now, if we look at the broad context of all of these verses we can see why believers should not be joined together, particularly in marriage, with unbelievers. That doesn't mean that we can't have non-believer friends but there is a limit or a line that we cannot cross and Paul mentions some of these things in a general way when he says “that we ought not to walk with the children of darkness...For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.” Remember that (2) two cannot “walk together unless they be agreed” and we cannot agree with many of the things

that the world gets entangled with. This means that we should “throw off everything that hinders [us] and the Sin that so easily entangles” **Hebrew 12:1**. Now if we shouldn’t be Unequally Yoked or bound together and walking together in agreement with those who are openly sinful, and that is a direct reference to the unsaved, then how much more should Believers not marry anyone who is not walking with Alahym.

If you take a believer and Yoke them or bind them to an unbeliever, the (2) two will want to do things differently, will want to go in different directions, and won’t be able to walk together in agreement and thus, whatever comes of this team that is Yoked together will most certainly be unproductive and unfruitful.. Both parties will be in misery and iT could end with the result of divorce, something that is in nobody’s best interest, particularly if there are children involved.

Conclusion

If you are seeking a mate for life, then don’t even consider someone who isn’t a Believer. The goals and purposes of the (2) two are not at all the same. If you are considering dating someone who is not a believer, stop and understand that you are playing with fire, because the relationship could lead to marriage and a marriage where both parties have different ideas about their purpose in life. And if you have friends that are not believers, I am not suggesting that you cut off those relationships, but make sure you draw the line in the sand and don’t be willing to walk across it because Sin can so easily entangle us. Besides, “we ought not to walk with the children of darkness because they are not in the light of Mashiach (Messiah) and so we should be walking as children of light” which is why Paul commanded believers, “Do not be Unequally Yoked with Unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness” **2 Corinthians 6:14?**