

# WEEK FOUR DAY TWO

Paul says something in 2 Corinthians that should cause us to take notice. Look at his words below:

***[14] Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?  
[15] What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?***

**- 2 Corinthians 6:14-15**

What is Paul saying here? First, a yoke is what you would use to essentially attach two oxen or mules together to plow a field or pull a cart. If one ox were yoked to another ox, they would have no choice but to go together everywhere. They were essentially joined. So when Paul says that believers are not to be yoked with unbelievers, he's saying that if we follow Jesus, we cannot link our lives with those who do not. To do so would be as foolish as the light being linked to the darkness. Not only does it make no sense, but it should also be impossible.

This is a hard truth for some of us, isn't it? What this means is that we have to be careful about whom we link our lives to. Paul doesn't say that we shouldn't be friends with people who don't believe in God. Not at all. Paul made connections with all types of people, primarily to share the Gospel. Paul is saying that we cannot "do life" with people who do not believe in God. Why not? And what's the alternative? Well, that's an interesting question.

You're going to answer these questions for yourself today. I think you know, deep down inside, why Paul would give us such a command. I want you to think about it and come up with your own answers. So, jump to the next page and process how this truth applies to your life.

## Questions to Consider

1. Why do you think God would include this teaching in the Bible? What do you have to risk by linking your life with someone who does not believe in or follow God?
2. But we're called to lead people to God. How can we do this if we're not in some kind of a relationship with those who do not believe in God?
3. So what is the alternative? What is a suitable medium? What does it look like for us to have a relationship with someone who doesn't know God and to do so in a way that honors God?
4. Here's where the rubber meets the road. It's time to evaluate whether you have the type of "yoked" or "linked" relationships with people who do not believe in God. If you do, you have to take action. This doesn't mean that you have to abandon this person. Or never talk to them again. Or be mean or cruel to them.
5. On the contrary, you should be especially gentle in how you deal with it. But you need to deal with it. Spend some time in prayer and ask God to help you see how to lovingly untangle your life from theirs. Remember: The goal is that you would maintain relationships with all sorts of people to show them God's love. That's the ultimate goal.