

II Corinthians 6:14

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

Another word for bound is yoke; we are not to be yoked with unbelievers. What this scripture is referring to, is **Deuteronomy 22:10**, "**You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together.** Here the Lord is forbidding putting two different types of animals in the same yoke or harness. The Apostle Paul is referring to Christian believers plowing or partnering with those who are outside of the faith! One of the ways that Christians partner with unbelievers, is when they associate or participate in anything that the Lord says is sin. I once had an opportunity as a builder to partner with an architect, who was a believer. As we were discussing common goals and philosophies; it came out that he didn't believe in tithing. I chose to stop pursuing that partnership, because **Malachi 3:8-9** says, ⁸ "**Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed Thee?' In tithes and offerings.** ⁹ "**You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you!** I believe that if I chose to partner with this man in a business partnership, then his choices spiritually, as well as professionally, would have a direct impact on my life. Some people, who attend church regularly, also attend their local bar or dance club; they are as well known in one, as they are the other. Others not only attend church, but other forms of spiritual enlightenment. One of the many reasons the church is lukewarm today, is because Christians, just like the ancient Jews, have not separated themselves from the things of this world. Many want to say as a disclaimer, "That this world is so wicked or evil, that it is truly impossible to separate one's self from it completely." So is that a license for us to do whatever our flesh desires? Are we to look for reasons to indulge in what the Lord has called sin? Absolutely not!

Another common understanding of this scripture is for a believer not to marry an unbeliever. I am always amazed when I hear of Christians who are involved in dating relationships and engagements with unbelievers. Today I often hear where a divorce took place because of infidelity or abuse, and then the spouse who was the innocent party, immediately starts dating an unbeliever. I know of no other word to describe this than, 'insanity'. Yet, it is so common today that many people have just learned to accept it. What is so tragic is when children are involved. Instead of the children's mother or father trying to heal with their children, they are racing into another destructive relationship. It always starts off the same, "We're just friends", "I'm praying that they'll be saved", "They promised to go to church with me", and "They said they believe in God, but their religion is personal to them". If only we truly could hear how foolish we sound. We act and behave in direct opposition to God's Word, and then we're surprised when we are facing a second, third, or fourth divorce. Do we believe that we are smarter than God? Or, is it that we want what we want, no matter what anyone thinks? It is common knowledge that there are as many divorces in the church, as there are out in the world. This should not be! Please don't misunderstand me here, I am not slamming anyone's past. But, I pray that I am helping to open your eyes to the truth of God's Word; so that you don't continue to follow the same destructive patterns that perhaps you made in the past, or that your parents made. I exhort you to live your life, according to God's Word.