

To Marry, Not To Marry

Unequally Yoked

**“Be ye not unequally yoked
together with unbelievers:
for what fellowship
hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion
hath light with darkness?”
2 Cor 6:14**

“Unequally yoked” is translated from the Greek word, *heterozugeo*, a very rare word in the scriptures. It is only found twice in the scriptures, once in the New Testament, and once in the Old Testament in Lev. 19:19. It is thought that the Old Testament refers to breeding different species of animals. Paul uses this term in the New Testament in references to personal/business relationships....perhaps marital, professional, educational, political, and social.

What is a *yoke*? A yoke is an emblem which binds two individuals, who will be linked together to complement each other as they combine their strengths and weaknesses to perform various tasks at hand. As Deut. 22:10 instructs, “You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together.” One must consider the lack of equal strength, each of their dispositions, and also their initial abilities. A wise man seeks to complete tasks in the most efficient and effective manner.

Who’s Your Daddy?

“Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is not truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me? He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.’” John 8:42-44

Walking in Harmony

Marriage is a union, a yoking, and a blending of two individuals. Their service will be most effective if they both serve in one accord to the same god. This provides for harmony in purpose, walk, and life. The Christian and non-Christian serve two different fathers.

It is mere wisdom that warns a believer in regards to marrying a non-believer. Such a union is bound to journey through difficult passages with an uncertain destiny. Two believers united in marriage are destined to their eternal homeland, heaven. A couple divided in their destiny shall not easily stand.

Mere wisdom also warns regarding the union of two believers with drastic differences in their levels of consecration, commitment, and service to the Lord. Two seasoned oxen are a highly preferred team in contrast to a team of oxen, one being a yearling, and the other a mature seasoned ox. The second team is only as effective as the weakest ox; however, the first team of oxen who present similar training, skills, loyalty, and desires to please the Master, will surely have victory!

Think Twice...

- 1. If Truth is not their focus.**
- 2. If their pastor can't give a positive reference.**
- 3. If they don't enjoy the presence of God.**
- 4. If they don't feel comfortable in the presence of God.**
- 5. If you cannot trust them to pursue God without your constant encouragement.**
- 6. If they make decisions without seeking the hand of God.**
- 7. If their parents don't enjoy the presence of God.**
- 8. If they give counsel contrary to the Word.**
- 9. If they do not honor their parents.**
- 10. If their parents don't uphold your calling.**
- 11. If they refuse to work.**
- 12. If the atmosphere of rebels is exciting.**
- 13. If they lack respect for others and supercede the needs of others with selfish desires.**
- 14. If they enjoy breaking the Law.**
- 15. If people of excellence do not surround them.**
- 16. If you cannot trust them with your finances.**
- 17. If you cannot trust them in your Absence**

Love is....

Patient

Kind

Rejoices in Truth

Always Protects

Trusts

Hopes

Perseveres

Love is Not....

Envious

Rude

Boastful

Self-seeking

Proud

Easily angered

A Delighter in Evil

A Keeper of the record of wrongs

1 Cor. 13

What Feeds Love...

Communication

Timely Discussions

Compliments

Fidelity

Expressing Gratitude

Spending Time Together

Acting as a Team

Taking Responsibility