

# **Lesson One: The Danger of Being Unequally Yoked**

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Life in the Word Series:

Unequally Yoked

(Avoiding Mismatched Relationships)

# **Foundation Scripture:**

## **II Corinthians 6:14-16**

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



**What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”**



# Lesson One: The Danger of Being Unequally Yoked



# **What is a Yoke?**

*A yoke is a wooden beam that connects two large animals, like oxen, and helps them work equally and together.*

# **What is the Meaning of Unequally Yoked**

*Being "UNEQUALLY YOKE" means being in a close relationship where there is a fundamental mismatch in core beliefs and values.*

*To be yoked refers to two oxen joined by a wooden bar to complete work together.*

*Being unequally yoked means that the two oxen are not equal in strength - one being weaker.*



**"Do not be mismatched with unbelievers. For what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness?"**

**(Holman Christian Standard Bible)**





**"Don't become partners with those who reject God. How can you make a partnership out of right and wrong? That's not partnership; that's war. Is light best friends with dark?"**

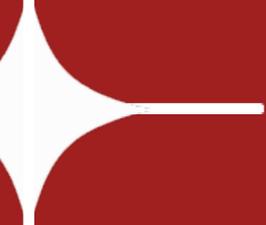
**(The Message Bible)**





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

**(New American Standard Bible)**





**"Don't be tied up as equal partners with people who don't believe. What does righteousness share with that which is outside the Law? What relationship does light have with darkness?"**

**(Common English Bible)**



## **I Corinthians 5:9-10**

**I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.**

# **God's Heart behind the Command**

**II Corinthians 6:14-18**

**Three Biblical  
Examples of  
Being Unequally  
Yoked**

# **The Life of Samson:** **Read Judges 13-16**

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## **Judges 14:1-31**

**Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman. When he returned, he said to his father and mother, “I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah; now get her for me as my wife.” His father and mother replied, “Isn’t there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?” But Samson said to his father, “Get her for me. She’s the right one for me.**

**The Life Ahab:  
I Kings 19-21**

*Ponder means to think deeply,  
meditate, or contemplate on  
something.*

**I considered my ways and turned my feet to Your testimonies.**

**Psalm 119:59**

**There was no king in Israel and every man did what was right in his own eyes.**

**Judges 17:6**

**For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die, but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.**

**Romans 8:13-14**

**And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**

**Galatians 5:24-25**

**Ponder the path  
of your feet.**

**Proverbs 4:26**

**But there was none like unto Ahab,  
which did sell himself to work  
wickedness in the sight of the Lord,  
whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.**

**1 Kings 21:25**

**The Life of  
Solomon:  
I Kings 11:1-43**

**And King Solomon loved many foreign women, even the daughter of Pharaoh, Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, Hittites; of the nations which Jehovah had said to the sons of Israel, You shall not go in to them, and they shall not go in to you; surely they will turn away your heart after their gods. Solomon clung to these in love.**

**I Kings 11:1-**

**Fear God and keep his  
commandments, for this is the full  
duty of all mankind.**

**Ecclesiastes 12:13**

**Can two people walk together without  
agreeing on the direction?**

**Amos 3:3**

*“Any relationship that pulls you away from God is a relationship that you need to pull away from.”*

## ***Follow Up Chat Questions:***

- 1. What is the biblical definition of a yoke?*
- 2. What is meant by being unequally yoked?*
- 3. Describe the Apostle Paul's purpose for writing this command.*
- 4. What were some fundamental difficulties and conflicts seen in the life of Samson, Ahab and Solomon?*
- 5. How were their spiritual journey with God impaired?*
- 6. Why is it important today to choose godly partnerships?*
- 7. Did you benefit from today's lesson? How so?*