

The Total Integration IN CHRIST from Ephesians Series #3: Advice for the Bible and Our Heavenly Father about Light and Righteousness versus Darkness and Unrighteousness in the Home and Family, at work and the rest of the world, and at church.

1. As previously discussed, Paul and our Heavenly Father recommend not being “unequally yoked together with unbelievers” because what fellowship has light and righteousness with darkness and unrighteous. It is really important to God to heed for the Christian “chosen by God from before the foundation of the earth” (Just a little foretaste of where we are headed in this study of Ephesians).
2. Paul and the Bible recommend those in marriage already with an unbeliever, try to remain married to be a holy influence on the spouse and children, but if necessary can depart as “they are not under obligation.
3. Now to come briefly to darkness and unrighteous (right and wrong) that one confronts with others in the world at work, socially, and all places and ways: the advice of the Bible is—

“I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.” (I Corinthians 5:9-11)

You like that figurative and strong language in the Bible, summarized with other Bible as “in the world, not of the world”—“then must ye needs go out of the world”; and that is wisdom to combat the psychologists and cultural educators of society who would initially react to separation from darkness and unrighteousness with some thought like, “Ah, there goes those Christians again being anti-social, divisive as citizens, and sectarian.” Well, psychologists put this in your pipe and smoke it!

Bible advice: Fornicators in the church are to be avoided, yet with the fornicators and other habitual people of covetousness, extortion, and idolatry you would to get out of the world and be anti-social, and not a witness, if you avoided all of them. And the language is stronger about eating with a Christian brother that is “a fornicator or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, drunkard, or an extortioner—” with such an one no not to eat.” (I Corinthians 5:9-11)

4. **This naturally leads to the shock with most church members to learn from their Bibles that they are suppose to AVOID such fellow church members.**

“Perilous Times and Perilous Men

3 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres

resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; 9 but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.: (II Timothy 3:10 NJKV)

The shocking truth for many is IT IS NOT RELIGION OR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP, and from certain church members of darkness and unrighteousness get away from them, "FROM SUCH TURN AWAY".

5. And before we get deep into the total integration in Christ of Ephesians, this same Scripture is a good place to clarify what is both darkness and unrighteousness.

"For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power."