



Avoid them

Contrary to what some people believe, there is room for separating ourselves from certain people. This is not only the right thing to do, but it is also wise because we are protecting ourselves and our relationship with the Lord. There is a place for doing this. Of course, we live in a fallen world, and we must go to the lost (world) as Jesus did and then said in the great commission, but we must be careful about it lest we get influenced and sidetracked by the very ones we are wanting to reach.

There is a balance to this. We have to get out and reach the lost. We do not live in a monastery. We need to ask ourselves this question; who is the affecting or influencing who, the believer or the unbeliever? If they are the ones influencing you and in the driver's seat, then you need to quit that association. It is doing you no good to destroy your faith to reach someone else. This must be done with wisdom. Again,

- A. Acts 15:1 And certain men which came down from Judea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. Acts 15:5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.
 - a) This was a perverted gospel that Paul warned the Galatians about. Christ + anything= Nothing, but Christ + nothing = Everything.
 - b) We need to turn away from such people who are preaching a perverted Gospel.

- B. Romans 16:17-18 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. 18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.
 - a) Now I beseech you,

- i) Beseech means to call near, i.e. invite, invoke.
- ii) This was a plea not a commandment. But it is worth giving heed to because according to 1 Cori 15:33, evil communications corrupt good manners.

b) Brethren

This imploration was to the believers. This is brothers in Christ.

c) Mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned;

- i) "mark" means "to take aim at (spy), i.e. regard"
- ii) "Divisions" means "disunion, i.e. dissension".
- iii) "Offenses" comes from a Greek word SKANDALON where we get the English word scandal. it also "means a trap stick i.e. snare." (Strong's Concordance).

- Offenses are traps of the enemy.

There are people who cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which we have learned. They could be from within or without.

d) Avoid them.

- i) "Avoid" means "Deviate i.e. Shun, decline."
- ii) These people were not serving God. They were causing divisions and offenses. It is very evident. This is the reason Paul was beseeching the brethren to mark them and deviate and shun them. They were serving their own bellies not God. This sets a precedent for most people who cause division and offenses. They are out for themselves. They are seeking to benefit for themselves. Division is rooted in self-centeredness and pride.

C. 1 Corinthians 5:9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: 1 Corinthians 5:10 Yet not altogether the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. 1 Corinthians

5:11 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 idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such a one no not to eat.

- a) Paul said and even more used the words "not to keep company of any" brother in Christ who are fornicators, covetous idolaters, railers, drunkards, extortioner etc. A little leaven leavens the whole lamp. We are not to avoid only unbelievers, there are believers that must be avoided. According to Paul, believers not unbelievers would be the most dangerous to believers.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

- a) Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:

- i) "unequally yoked together" was translated from a Greek word HETEROZUGEO which means "to yoke up differently i.e. to associate discordantly" (Strong's Concordance).

- There is difficulty in operation, movement or productivity that arises from being unequally yoked. We as believers have to be aware about not associating ourselves with others unequally, not just in marriage but business, partnerships and so forth.

- ii) "Unbelievers" was translated from a Greek word APISTOS which means "disbelieving, i.e. without Christian faith (specifically a heathen).

- b) Paul gives the reason why we should not yoke up differently with the disbelieving or those without Christian faith. He said what fellowship (participation i.e. intercourse) hath righteousness with unrighteousness, what communion hath light with darkness? We are light and light has not fellowship with darkness in the same way righteousness has no fellowship with unrighteousness. This is a simple instruction yet very powerful.

If we followed what this teaches, we could save ourselves from so many heartaches we encounter through disobedience.

c) come out from among them, and be ye separate,

i) Separate means "to set off by boundary i.e. limit, exclude appoint"

D. 2 Timothy 2:23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do engender strifes. [2Ti 2:24](#) And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, [2Ti 2:25](#) In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

a) "foolish" is translated from a Greek word "MOROS" where we get the English word Moron and it means "dull or stupid, heedless, blockhead"

b) unlearned means "stupid"

i) James 3:16

ii) These kinds of questions should be avoided because they are moronic and procreate strife. They should be avoided and shunned.

E. [2Ti 3:1](#) This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. [2Ti 3:2](#) For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, [2Ti 3:3](#) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, [2Ti 3:4](#) Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; [2Ti 3:5](#) Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. [2Ti 3:6](#) For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, [2Ti 3:7](#) Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

a) Paul said we should turn away from certain people. "From such turn away." From whom?

i) lovers of their own selves

ii) covetous

iii) boasters

iv) proud

v) blasphemers

vi) disobedient to parents

vii) unthankful

viii) unholy

ix) Without natural affection

x) Trucebreakers

- xi) false accusers
- xii) incontinent
- xiii) fierce
- xiv) despisers of those that are good

- xv) Traitors
- xvi) Heady
- xvii) Highminded
- xviii) lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God

F. 2 John 1:7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. 2 John 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. 2 John 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 2 Jn 1:10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him Godspeed: 2 John 1:11 For he that biddeth him Godspeed is partaker of his evil deeds.

a) These passages tell us who we need to avoid. Those who bring in a doctrine that is not consistent with the Word of God that Christ is not come in the flesh (deny that He is the Christ and that He is 100% God and 100% man) are deceivers and antichrist should not even be welcomed in our houses. We should not give them any greeting, nor encouragement let we become partakers of their evil deeds. This is not a joke! This is a very serious instruction.

- i) Jesus is 100% God and was 100% man)
- ii) Jesus was born of a virgin.
- iii) He lived a sinless perfect life.
- iv) Died physically on the cross
- v) Physically rose again from the dead.