

This Is Us Series
Putting an End to the War
2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1
February 11, 2018

Genesis 2:18 – 18 *Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”*

Build a Partnership in ALLEGIANCE to Jesus!

Psalms 34:3 – 3 *Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!*

1 Corinthians 10:31 – 31 *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

Romans 8:10-11 – 10 *But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11* *If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.*

Isaiah 54:5-8 – 5 *For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. 6* *For the Lord has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God. 7* *For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you. 8* *In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,” says the Lord, your Redeemer.*

Ephesians 5:22, 25 – 22 *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. – 25* *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,*

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 – 14 *Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15* *What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? 16* *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. 17* *Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, 18* *and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.” 1* *Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.*

1. Stop working AGAINST each other. 2 Corinthians 6:14-16a

14 *Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.*

Deuteronomy 22:10 – **10** *You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together. (different natures, gaits and strengths)*

1 Corinthians 7:12-13 – **12** *To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. 13 If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him.*

v.14 is followed by 5 rhetorical questions that all anticipate a negative answer...
For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols?

A partnership of righteousness—**2 Corinthians 5:21** – **21** *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Righteousness is the rule of Christ's kingdom. Our actions would bring us together.*

A fellowship of light—**John 1:9** – **9** *The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. John 8:12 – **12** *Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**

Acts 26:16-18 – **16** *But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, 17 delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you 18 to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' Our commitment to truth would bring us together.*

An accord with Christ—**Colossians 1:9-11** – **9** *And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;*

A share of the believer's portion—**1 Peter 1:3-4** – **3** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,*

An agreement as the temple of God—**1 Corinthians 3:16** – **16** *Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?*

2. Be a picture of God's work of **REDEMPTION** for each other. **2 Corinthians 6:16b-18**

This is where Paul makes the most profound statement—*For we are the temple of the living God (v. 16b).*

Ezekiel 36:26-27 — **26** *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*

1 Corinthians 6:19 — **19** *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,*

v.16. “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **17** Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, **18** and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

Colossians 3:18 — **18** *Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

1 Peter 3:1-5 — **1** *Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct. 3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— 4 but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious. 5 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands,*

Ephesians 5:25-27 — **25** *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. So, husbands, love your wife, out serve your wife!*

3. Put God’s **PROMISES** to work in each other. 2 Corinthians 7:1

1 *Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.*

Let’s talk about putting an end to the war...

1. How can you know that Paul was talking about more than the marriage relationship in 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1?
2. What are some of the causes for marital war that you have experienced and what have you done to try and bring some peace to them in the past?
3. Why is it so detrimental to be “unequally yoked with unbelievers” (v.14)?
4. What is the point that Paul is making through the 5 rhetorical questions that he asks (v.14b-16a)?
5. Why is it so important for us to understand that we are the temple of God (v.16b)?
6. What are the promises that God makes to us that explain to us what it means to be His temple (v.16c-18)?
7. How are God’s people supposed to respond to the promises that God has made (v.17)?

8. What will God do in response to our obedience to His command (v.17-18)?
9. What does it say about our belief in the promises of God when we refuse to live our lives (7:1)?
10. What would it look like to bring “holiness to completion in the fear of God” (7:1)?