

Contending For The Faith Once For All Delivered To The Saints (Jude 3)
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 Editor & evangelist: Richard E. Swan, Phone: 932-3244, Vol. III No. 18
 "The Gospel Of Christ" 8:15-8:30 a.m. Lord's Day: WNXT 1260 AM 99.3 FM
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SHOULD A CHRISTIAN MARRY A NON-CHRISTIAN?

Ever since God had a chosen people he has forbidden them to marry those of the world. In the O.T. the Jewish nation were His chosen ones whereas today faithful members of the Church of Christ sustain this relationship. (Deut. 7:6, II Cor. 6:16-18, I Pet. 2:9) This is not to say however that God doesn't recognize marriage among non-Christians for He does (Heb. 13:4). See also I Cor. 6:9-11.

GOD'S OBJECTIONS STILL TRUE TODAY !

As one studies the O.T. and learns the reasons why God forbade His people to marry with the world he will find those same reasons still true today. Note them:

(1) Gen. 6:1-5--"They Were Fair": Brethren, we must not choose our life-long companion solely on the basis of their physical attraction. Jesus said, "Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment." (John 7:24) It is a sobering fact that whoever you marry will have the greatest influence on you and no doubt greatly determine where you will be in eternity. Young men remember the writer of Proverbs when he said, "Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids." 6:25

(2) Ex. 34:12-16--"A Snare": The child of God always gets the worst of it in a mixed marriage. There are "snares" with regard to personal work, giving, and raising of children to say nothing of faithful attendance. See also Jos. 23:11-13.

VACATIONING IN EASTERN KY.?

If you will be traveling in this part of Ky. this summer and are looking for a congregation that will uphold ALL of the truth you will find one meeting at the following places: Ashland (30th & Carter), Lousia, Carter City, South Shore, Van Lear, Blockhouse Bottom among others. Note: There is no longer a faithful congregation meeting in Load Ky. so plan accordingly.

(3) Deut. 7:1-6--"Turn Away Son": Please notice the record of an inspired man: "And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore...For he was wiser than all men...And he spake 3000 proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five..." (I Kings 4:29-34) Are you better than Solomon? And yet we read; "And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel which had appeared unto him twice." (I Kings 11:9) What caused this deplorable condition? Look up at v. 2. "Of the nations concerning which the Lord said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave to these in love."

(4) Ezra 9:2-4--"Holy Seed Have Mingled Themselves With The People Of Those Lands": How true today. Note below.

"But the children of promise are counted for seed." (Rom. 9:8)
 "Now we, brethren, as Isaac was are the children of promise." (Gal. 4:28)

(5) Neh. 13:23-27--"The Language Of Ashdod": Because of mixed marriages the Jews could not speak their own language and were ignorant of the law of Moses. True today with our law isn't it?

THE TEACHING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Some have "explained away" the following verses in an effort to prove that God sanctions a Christian marrying those of the world. After just reading them is it your impression that it is God's will that his children marry out of His family?

"The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth, but if her husband be dead she is a liberty to be married to whom she will only in the Lord." (I Cor. 7:39)

"Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife (that is a believer ASV) as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?" (I Cor. 9:5)

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" (II Cor. 6:14)

I. I Cor. 7:39: Those that approve of marrying out of the church ask the question; How could the Holy Spirit approve marriage of a member of the church with a non-member in the first part of the chapter and forbid such in the latter part of the chapter without contradicting himself? There is no contradiction and the answer is that in the 1st part Paul speaks to those who were previously married before one party became a Christian whereas here the teaching is against going out and finding a mate from the world. The expression "in the Lord" must mean those that are in Christ or those that act according to the will of the Lord...either way they would be both faithful Christians.

II. I Cor. 9:5: Some ask where is the restriction to marry an unbelieger here? The answer of course is in the silence of the Scriptures. Since they completely furnish a man to every good work and if it is not there is sin (II Tim. 3:16,17; II Jn. 9) where is the verse that teaches a Christian to find a mate from the world? Paul is here teaching that he passed up his right to be married but if he were to marry it would be to a "sister" and this principle applies also to "the brethren on the Lord" which would be Christians (Matt. 12:49,50)

III. II Cor. 6:14: Those that object would say If it applies to marriage it also forbids a Christian to remain married to an unbeliever, for it says "BE" not "BECOME". The answer of course is that this is a verse that is general in scope and can be applied to marriage. If so it needs to be harmonized with I Cor. 7:13 which teaches the believer not to leave the unbeliever.

* ORDER OF SERVICES *
* Lord's Day: 10:00 a.m. Worship *
* 7:30 p.m. Worship *
* Thursday: 7:30 p.m. Bible Study *

Christians are to "walk by faith and not by sight" (II Cor. 5:7) and that which we do are to be done without doubtings (Rom. 14:23) in the full assurance that our Father is pleased with them. Are you confident that God is pleased with your marrying a child of the devil?

THOUGHTS FOR THOSE WHO WOULD MARRY OUT OF THE CHURCH

1. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3)
2. "A house divided against itself shall not stand" (Matt. 12:25)
3. How can you "please" your companion while going opposite to their religion? (I Cor. 7:34)
4. How will you teach your children "in the way" (Prov. 22:6) when you do not agree with your marriage partner on it?
5. How can you teach the children to "obey your parents" when you do not stand together on the most important thing in life? (Eph. 6:4)

Wouldn't It Be Better To Marry In Christ & Not Worry Over These Things?