

Question: What promise attaches to our faithful obedience to this command?

2 Cor 6:18 _____

Question: In view of such great promises from our Heavenly Father, what does Paul urge each and every Christian to do?

2 Cor 7:1 _____

Question: “*Perfecting holiness*” obviously doesn’t mean that we will reach perfection in this life. We still have our sinful flesh. What did Paul himself experience?

Philippians 3:12-14 _____

Questions for Discussion:

Verse 16 (“*Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers*”) does not appear to be focusing specifically on the subject of marriage – e.g., there’s nothing at all about marriage in the surrounding chapter. In what ways, however, might this general principle inform the Christian’s view of marriage?

Many churches hold events such as bake sales, bazaars, and spaghetti suppers in order to raise money. The public is invited and a fee is charged. Confessional Lutherans, however, have generally avoided such practices. Why do you think that is?

II CORINTHIANS

PAUL'S MOST PERSONAL EPISTLE

Part 12 – 2 Cor. 6:11-7:1 Do Not Be Improperly Yoked!

Warm-up: If you showed up at church on Sunday morning and found a statue of Buddha set up on the altar, you’d be outraged, and rightly so. But what would you say if another Christian denomination offered a large amount of money to rent your church on Sunday afternoons? Such offers have occasionally been made to CLC churches. What issues might be involved? What if it were a *non-Christian* religion wanting to rent the church?

Question: Chapter 6 opened with Paul appealing to the Corinthian Christians “*not to receive the grace of God in vain.*” Something was coming between the Apostle and the congregation he founded – but it wasn’t coming from Paul! How does he characterize his attitude toward the Corinthians in v.11?

2 Cor 6:11 _____

Question: Speaking of hearts, a lover who wonders whether his love is reciprocated might ask, “Is there room for me in your heart?” With that in mind, what do you think Paul is saying in the next verse?

2 Cor 6:12 _____

Question: Fair is fair! What does Paul request in the following verse?

2 Cor 6:13 _____

Question: Paul says parenthetically, “I speak as to children.” Do you think that’s a *rebuke* or an *endearment*?

1 Cor 4:15 _____

Question: Now we come to the verse that sums up the point of this whole section. What is God’s command for His children?

2 Cor 6:14a _____

Question: Can you guess what many Christians immediately think this verse is about?

_____.

Question: Looking back to 1 Corinthians, there’s one thing we can say for sure that it is NOT about . . .

1 Cor 5:9-10 _____

Question: Let’s see if we can understand what “unequally yoked” DOES mean. Paul, well-versed in the Old Testament, may be referring to Deuteronomy 2:10. What does God command Israel in this verse?

Deuteronomy 2:10 _____

Question: Can you think of any practical reasons why that might have been a bad idea?

Question: This section is mainly a warning against *religious unionism*, which establishing outward unity with others for worship and church work when there is no unity of faith. Write down the five pairs of things that the Apostle says are mutually exclusive (vv 14b-16a):

_____ and _____

_____ and _____

_____ and _____

_____ and _____

_____ and _____

Question: That last comparison may be harking back to a problem Paul identified in 1 Corinthians. What had some of the church members been doing?

1 Cor 10:19-21 _____

Question: Paul now quotes several Old Testament passages to explain what it means that we believers are “*the temple of God*.” What adjective modifying “God” in this passage distinguishes every Christian from every non-Christian?

2 Cor 6:16 _____

Question: What is God’s command to His people when they are urged to “yoke themselves together” with unbelievers?

2 Cor 6:17 _____