Perfect Holiness

Jeff Trahan · 2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1

INTRODUCTION

- It is not always easy to live up to the commitment that we made to Christ when we chose to obey the gospel of Christ.
- One thing that can stand in the way of us being what God wants us to be, perhaps even more than anything else, is relationships with people who are not what God wants them to be.

1 Do Not Be Unequally Yoked With Unbelievers

2 Corinthians 6:14; Deuteronomy 22:10; 1 Corinthians 9:8–10

- The way Paul worded things seems to suggest that the Corinthians were actually engaging in the very thing that he was forbidding here.
- Do not plow with an ox and a donkey yoked together.
- When you put two people together who are not compatible, there's a good chance that there's going to be a problem there.
- It is impossible for the purity of the Christian and the pollution of the pagan to run in double harness.
- What Paul tells us is that some things just don't go together.

2 Some Things Just Don't Go Together

Ecclesiastes 4:9–10; Proverbs 13:20; 1 Corinthians 15:33

- Paul's not really just talking about marriage when he wrote these words. These words may apply to that relationship, but they're certainly not limited to it.
- Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise. But the companion of fools will suffer harm.
- We need to be really careful when choosing our companions, regardless of the nature of the relationship we may be talking about.
- Becoming a believer means that we are to be different from the way we used to live, different from the world around us.
- It's easier to be the kind of people that we are supposed to be when we're surrounded by others who are trying to do what is right.

3 We Are the Temple of the Living God

2 Corinthians 6:16; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 John 3:1

- The remarkable fact that Paul pointed out in verse 16 is that we are the temple of the living God.
- Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's spirit dwells in you?
- God's dwelling place was always meant to be with his people.

- See what kind of love the Father has given to us that we should be called children of God.

4 These Promises Are Conditional

2 Corinthians 6:17–18; 1 Peter 1:14–16

- Therefore go out from their midst and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing. Then I will welcome you.
- We can't expect God to dwell with us and walk among us if we're not willing to go out from the midst of and separate from those who don't belong to him.
- What God wants for us is to be holy. To be separate. To be distinct.
- As he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, you shall be holy for I am holy.

5 Bringing Holiness to Completion in the Fear of God

Hebrews 10:10; 2 Corinthians 7:1

- What we mean when we say that God is holy is that he is like no other.
- By God's will we have been made holy through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
- In some sense holiness is positional. We have been made holy in Christ. But I think we also need to see that holiness is practical as well.
- 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.
- There still needs to be a decisive personal action over the way that we live our lives.
- We are to bring holiness to completion. We are to perfect holiness in the fear of God.

THE CHALLENGE

Let me ask you a question. Are you doing that? Are you bringing holiness to completion? Are you perfecting holiness?

MY NOTES