



“Why Shouldn’t a Born-Again Believer Marry an Unbeliever?”
Summer 2017 Preaching Series: Pastoral Answers to Life’s Questions

Introduction: God has also raised up shepherds to help us with the specifics of life’s inevitable questions:

Today’s Question: “Why Shouldn’t a Born-Again Believer Marry an Unbeliever?”

It is often asked after the fact... “Now that I know I married an unbeliever is divorce an option?”

Our Propositional Statement:

We believe a born-again Christian who has trusted in Jesus Christ alone for his or her salvation should never marry an unbeliever.

“Does the Bible truly command believers not to marry unbelievers?”

1 Corinthians 7:39 “A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 9:5 “Do we not have a right to a believing wife...?”

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, “I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,” says the Lord. “AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. “And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” Says the Lord Almighty

2 Corinthians 6:14 “Do not be bound together with unbelievers...” (New American Standard Bible)

2 Corinthians 6:14 “Do not be misdated with unbelievers...” (Revised Standard Version)

2 Corinthians 6:14 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers...” (King James Version)

Malachi 2:14 “...the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.”

Mark 10:9 “What therefore God has joined together (i.e. what God has yoked together in marriage), let no man separate.”

“Why does God command a believer not to marry an unbeliever?” “But what if they love each other?”

“A bird may love a fish but where would they build a home together?” (A line from Fiddler on the Roof)

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 “Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm *alone*? And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.”

2 Corinthians 6:15 “...what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?”

The Fundamental Differences Between a Believe and an Unbeliever

The Believer...

- has trusted in Jesus alone for salvation
- spends eternity in heaven
- has God as his Father
- has Satan as his enemy
- has forgiveness of sins
- has the truth which sets him free

The Unbeliever...

- relies hopelessly on good works
- spends eternity in hell
- has God as his Judge
- has Satan as his father
- has judgment for sins
- is filled with lies that keep him in bondage

- is indwelt by the Holy Spirit
- has hope
- can walk by faith
- is confident of his salvation
- is an heir of promise
- has peace that passes understanding
- will stand before the Bema Seat
- will rise in the Rapture
- can ask for and receive God's wisdom
- has the power of God as a resource
- is rewarded for his good deeds
- has the love of God in his heart
- is a minister of reconciliation
- can love unconditionally
- experiences no sting of death
- has the love of God in his heart
- is disciplined by God, the Father
- can understand the Bible
- has conviction of sin
- is at war with sin
- has spiritual gifts to serve God
- can worship God in spirit and truth
- has the righteousness of Christ
- is an ambassador of Christ
- is seated with Christ
- has direct access to God
- has the privilege of prayer
- has the Counselor living inside him
- has peace with God
- has as his greatest need: sanctification

- is not indwelt by the Holy Spirit
- has no hope
- must walk by sight
- is unaware of his doom
- inherits judgment
- has no real peace
- will stand before the Great White Throne
- will experience the Great Tribulation
- has only earthly wisdom
- has no real power
- is judged according to his deeds
- is consumed by self-love
- has no capacity to bring reconciliation to others
- must love conditionally
- experiences the sting of death
- has no real capacity to love
- is condemned by God, the Judge
- can't understand the Bible
- has unresolvable guilt over sin
- is in bondage to sin
- merely has talents to serve man
- cannot worship God
- does righteous deeds that are like filthy rags
- is an emissary of the Devil
- is not seated with Christ
- has no access to God
- does not have the privilege of prayer
- must rely on external counsel
- is an enemy of God
- has as his greatest need: salvation

“Wouldn't the believer in the relationship be able to witness to the unbeliever and lead him/her to the Lord?”

If the spiritual side of the relationship was not enough of a priority to keep the believer from getting married to the unbeliever in the first place, it probably won't be that important of an issue after they get married, until some dramatic change of heart occurs.

“Doesn't God want us to be happy?” “Even if we do get married, isn't He a forgiving God?”

Our greatest happiness comes when we live as God designed us to live. cf. Hebrews 12:5-11

Matthew 5:6 “Blessed (happy) are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be satisfied.”
 “Shall we sin that grace may abound? God forbid?” (cf. Romans 6:1-2)

“What about ‘missionary’ dating?”

“Why are you putting yourself in a situation where your emotions can get ahead of your spiritual concerns?”

Our Encouragement:

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does God command against being ‘unequally yoked’ with a non-believer?
2. What are the fundamental differences between a believer and a non-believer?
3. Why is it important for singles and their parents to understand these principles?
4. Why is “missionary dating” a problem?