

**The Screwtape Letters ~ Letter 10 ~ Unequally Yoked**

December 6th, 2020

Before reading the following overview of this Letter, please click on the link above to read the book and for today's Illustrated Message, please read **Letter 10**.

Screwtape says; *“I gather that the middle-aged married couple who called at his office are just the sort of people we want him to know--rich, smart, superficially intellectual, and brightly sceptical about everything in the world. I gather they are even vaguely pacifist, not on moral grounds but from an ingrained habit of belittling anything that concerns the great mass of their fellow men and from a dash of purely fashionable and literary communism. This is excellent.”*

This couple that comes into fellowship with the patient are unbelievers who wear communism as a fashion, and embrace it literally. Isn't that often how the devil slips into Christians lives, with just a little bit of worldly leaven that eventually leavens their whole life with compromise? He sets them up with the right individuals who have everything that they would like to have in life. He'll have them question their own faith as to why they don't have the success that others have, or in this case, what this couple have. The devil will get you to question God, your faith, your trust in the Word and the message of Jesus.

**2 Corinthians 6:14-15** says; *“14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what [a]fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what [b]communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?”*

This scripture clearly shows not to have fellowship with anyone of a different religion, who does not believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and to have Him be Lord of their lives. Although they may 'believe' in God, they don't believe Jesus is God in the flesh. They may choose to have other 'gods' or no 'god' at all in their life, and the Apostle Paul says this is lawlessness. We taught on lawlessness in last weeks message.

It's very important to put a guard over any opportunities for fellowship with unbelievers, who don't believe in God or don't believe in Jesus to be Lord of all, and our only intent of fellowship with them should be to preach the Gospel to them that they might become born again.

Now we know we have jobs to go to, schools to attend and will be around unbelievers all of the time, but we're to always look for the opportunity to preach the gospel of Jesus to them. Work as unto the Lord in your testifying of Him. We know that we're in this world, but we're not to be a part of it. Even if there is persecution as a result, don't back down but be bold.

I've said this before and I'll say it again; if a person is not a born-again Christian that has made Jesus their Lord and Saviour, they are living in darkness and their Lord is Satan. Regardless of whether they believe in Him or not, there are only two kingdoms, the kingdom of darkness or the kingdom of light, and there is no middle ground. That is the stance you have to take when you're in conversation with the unsaved in the world, you share the good news of the gospel with them.

Again, as we just read in **2 Corinthians 6:14**; *“14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what [a]fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness?”*

We also read in **1 Corinthians 15:33** that; *“Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”*

If you sincerely ask yourself, how deep of fellowship can you really have with an unbeliever? You may talk about common ground things of news, events, family, raising children, the weather, your occupations, jobs, etc., but how deep can you really go with fellowship?

This may sound to be legalistic, but it's quite the opposite when a Christian puts this into practice, simply because those that are unbelievers will clearly be confronted to see their need to be born-again in order experience any common fellowship with a Christian, and until then, they are blinded by the god of this world, Satan, whom they serve while living in the kingdom of darkness.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4** says; *"3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."*

In this letter, Screwtape is trying to get the patient to embrace the lie that he can live in both worlds, the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom light, for he knows that ultimately after enough corrupting of his good morals, he will eventually backslide and choose the kingdom of darkness over the kingdom of light. Why? Because that is the more comfortable way to live.

**1 John 2:15-17** says; *"15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."*

That's a serious statement, that the love of the Heavenly Father is not in the Christian who loves and lusts after the things of the world!

Screwtape says; *"No doubt he must very soon realise that his own faith is in direct opposition to the assumptions on which all the conversation of his new friends is based. I don't think that matters much provided that you can persuade him to postpone any open acknowledgment of the fact, and this, with the aid of shame, pride, modesty and vanity, will be easy to do. As long as the postponement lasts he will be in a false position."*

In other words what Screwtape is saying is that he will be a fake Christian. It all comes back to what fellowship does light have with darkness. Just how much common ground can a Christian have with an unbeliever without having to compromise in one way or another to maintain it and not be persecuted and hated. Keep in perspective who the unbeliever's father is, it's the devil, so it doesn't matter how good the person is, how good their family is etc., they're in the kingdom of darkness. Don't look at and covet what they have and how successful they are either. Remember that as a Christian, Jesus said He'd never leave you or forsake you and will bless your coming and going, standing and sitting.

Screwtape says; *"He can be made to take a positive pleasure in the perception that the two sides of his life are inconsistent. This is done by exploiting his vanity. He can be taught to enjoy kneeling beside the grocer on Sunday just because he remembers that the grocer could not possibly understand the urbane and mocking world which he inhabited on Saturday evening; and contrariwise, to enjoy the bawdy and blasphemy over the coffee with these admirable friends all the more because he is aware of a "deeper", "spiritual" world within him which they cannot understand. "*

In this we see the pendulum swinging in both directions for compromise. Could it be that friendship evangelism and seeker friendly churches are nothing more than ways for Christians to be able to live in both worlds? It is prevalent in our society and church world today to not offend anyone, but think that if you build a good secular foundation of friendship with the unbeliever, that then you're then entitled to share the gospel with them at some point, or that it is sufficient for them to see your good works, that that will be enough for them to make a decision for Christ. What if the person dies before you share the gospel with them because you prioritized friendship, basketball, sports, media, world events and pleasures, over sharing the salvation message with them? They'll be lost for eternity. Or is your excuse for not sharing the gospel with them, is that you coveted and

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loved what he or she was into, did or has? Or do you like the Christian side of 'going in stealth', to not be labeled as a Christian? It's food for thought.

Seeker friendly churches are in the same boat. Building churches around sinners by interviewing them on the street asking them what kind of church they'd like to go to. The conclusion is that they preferred friendliness and no talk of sin in the church they'd like to go to. So if in going to that church, they die in the state of a sinner, having never heard the preaching of the gospel that they're a sinner who needs to be saved.

Jesus says in **John 15:18-21**; "18 *"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me."*

This is exactly what the seeker sensitive church goes out of the way to do, to create a nonconfrontational environment for the unsaved. Why? To avoid persecution and to be hated. On top of it they'll twist it to show that if you are being persecuted and hated, it's because you're doing something wrong!

The reason they hate you is because they hated Jesus first. The work of their father, the devil, they're doing by hating you because they hate the gospel which brings conviction of sin. Hatred is aligned with murder.

Jesus also says in **John 17:14-16**; "14 *I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world."*

Today as a Christian you're not of the world, just like Jesus wasn't of this world. The Bible says we're aliens passing through this world, that's why you don't have to fear persecution or being hatred because to be out of the body is to be present with the Lord. It will come upon Christians in the land sooner than what is being expected.

**John 15:19** again says; "19 *If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."*

The world loves you when you're worldly, they won't mind even if you are a Christian as long as you're participating in their ungodly actions and deeds. They might not believe, but they like to see the 'good' side of you, the 'charity' side of you, but they refuse to hear about repentance and being born again. This may come from family or friends and that they have so much animosity towards you that they hate you. As a matter of fact, the ungodly will hate you without you talking to them, because you're shining so brightly with the light of Christ.

Screwtape says: "*You see the idea--the worldly friends touch him on one side and the grocer on the other, and he is the complete, balanced, complex man who sees round them all. Thus, while being permanently treacherous to at least two sets of people, he will feel, instead of shame, a continual undercurrent of self-satisfaction. Finally, if all else fails, you can persuade him, in defiance of conscience, to continue the new acquaintance on the ground that he is, in some unspecified way, doing these people "good" by the mere fact of drinking their cocktails and laughing at their jokes, and that to cease to do so would be "priggish", "intolerant", and (of course) "Puritanical".*"

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You can hear the patient saying to himself; 'I don't want to be priggish, intolerant and Puritanical to these worldly friends because I'm doing them good even though I'm not preaching to them.' Can't you see this compromise in the world and lukewarm Christians today?

It's not rocket science to understand that if you are a Christian you will be hated by unbelievers, it's just the norm, and the only way around this is to compromise in one way or another to live in both worlds, but Jesus makes it clear that Christians are not to love the things of this world.

Whether a person is a Christian or not, they have familiar demons like Screwtape and Wormwood that are assigned to their lives with one purpose in mind and that is to be able to say of them after they die, "he or she is now safe in our fathers house in hell."

It's important for Christians to examine their lives today to see where they are living in compromised duality with one foot in the world and one foot in the Church, in order to avoid being hated by unbelievers. The unbelieving couple in this story are not some other religion that doesn't believe in Jesus, but rather they don't even believe in God.

The following scripture pretty much sums up what living the life of a Christian who does not straddle the fence, is going to be like. **Matthew 10:16-26**; "16 *Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless[a] as doves. 17 But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. 18 You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; 20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you. 21 "Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. 22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. 23 When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes. 24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house [b]Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household! 26 Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known."*

Do you see the condition here when Jesus says in **verse 22**, 'but he who endures to the end will be saved?' Your salvation is conditional as to whether or not you endure to the end by not caving into the world or to worship other gods.

Jesus also says in **Matthew 10:34-38**; "34 *Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. 35 For I have come to 'set[a] a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; 36 and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'* 37 *He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.*"

Many misinterpret the fact that Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and at the same time knowing that as a result of following Him, division would come, even to the closest of families. The seeker friendly church wants to just be peace-makers, to be a peaceful, loving, and caring friend to the ungodly instead of preaching the gospel. Jesus himself said that His word is the sword, the word of the Lord is the sword which will cause people to hate you and want to kill you.

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The word of the Lord will cause you to get off the broad and wide road, to repent, to have faith, to believe the gospel and to receive the Holy Spirit, but in doing that...you will be hated by the ungodly.

If you're prioritizing your Christian walk and fellowship around unbelievers that reject the gospel, you're not worthy of Him...that's what Jesus said. I don't know about you, but I don't want to be unworthy of Jesus because of the way I'm prioritizing the ungodly, lawbreaker above Him just because I want to be liked by the world. Everyone likes to be liked and appreciated, but isn't being liked and loved by Jesus enough that you've done His will? Being obedient to Him is the utmost and highest thing we can do as a Christian.

It's important for Christians to examine their lives today see where they are living in compromised duality with one foot in the world and one foot in the Church, in order to avoid being hated by unbelievers. It's not rocket science to understand that if you are a Christian you will be hated by unbelievers, it's just the norm, and the only way around this is to compromise in one way or another to live in both worlds, but Jesus makes it clear that Christians are not to love the things of this world.

For teaching on the Holy Spirit, please go to the [Holy Spirit Power Series](#) on our website.