

Intro_

In life, there are many obstacles that we face daily. Some are there in our professional life, hurdles that we must overcome in order to proceed on to the next level. When in pursuit of a goal, we shed ourselves of anything that can hold us back from achieving it. The same should be done for our spiritual life. There are a million things we can do to occupy our time. Not all are bad, and not all are good. There are many things out in the world that are nothing more than a distraction from our ultimate goal, which is to serve God. The older we get and the more mature we become, it is easier for us to discern what a detriment to our service to God is and what isn't. We, as Christians, being baptized have made a decision to serve God as our utmost priority in life. In doing so, we have a spiritual gulf between us and everyone else in the world. Keeping evil communications far from us is the best way to keep our resolve strong in serving God. Tonight we will discuss evil communications.

“Follow Me!”

[1Cor. 15:33](#). Evil communications can only serve to hinder service to God. Evil companionships are a constant force pulling at the Christian to abandon his obligations toward God. Listen to what the Lord taught with regards to genuine service to Him; [Matt. 10:37](#) “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” This doesn't mean that the moment one is baptized he can no longer associate with his family. But it does mean the Son must be loved above everything else, or he is not loved at all! This also implies that we have a choice in our services to God and sometimes even family can try to come between us and God. Many of us know who is and who isn't a bad influence. Anyone that serves only to keep us from serving God is an evil communication and no matter who they are, they must be cut off. We may still have a lot in common with family, but when it comes to religion, that's where we cut them off. [Prov. 9:6](#) says, “Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.” Also, [Prov. 13:20](#) warns, “He that walketh with wise *men* shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.” Christians that in spite of the difficulty and the hurt continue to deny themselves *unprofitable* family time for the gospel's sake, are considered *worthy* to be called genuine followers of Christ.

Avoiding the Unbelieving

[1Cor. 5:6-7](#). Once leaven is put into flour for baking, it cannot be separated. It is thoroughly mixed in with the entire loaf and there is no longer a distinction between the leaven and the bread. The same thing can happen with our associations. People looking in from the outside can associate other's behavior with our own. It is not a good look for us to be associated with the unfaithful and the unbelieving. Using the same theme, let's consider what the OT teaches about being separate from leaven. [Ex.13:7](#) “Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters.” This ancient religious practice has bearing upon the twenty-first century believer with regards to socializing with unbelievers, and the unfaithful especially, to not even be seen with some of them, lest *anyone* get the impression that we approve of their actions. [2Cor. 6:14](#). While the primary meaning of this passage deals with associating with apostate or expelled members of the church, we can take the theme of verse 14 and apply it to our lives and that is to not be yoked together with anyone without a deep-seated respect for the gospel. The path to salvation is narrow and the path to destructions

is broad. The *proverbial yoke* forces two oxen to travel the same path and the one with the more influence will overcome the other. It's best to avoid such "unequal yokes" lest they have a greater influence on us and pull us away from the narrow way.

Beware of Stumblingblocks

[Matt. 18:8-9](#). Anyone that can cause a Christian to stumble and fall, must be severed from his life. With wounds and infections that make it impossible to save a limb, where everything that could be done to save it has failed... it should be "cut off" in order to save the rest of the body. Any unclean association, that is, influence, so polluted with unbelief and rebellion against God that threatens to destroy the believer's faith and way of life, or that serves to create resentment towards God, needs to be cut out of our lives. Sometimes cutting off a family member or friend may feel like cutting off a hand or a foot, but weighed against the possibility of dying (losing the kingdom) it is only unavoidable. Absalom attempted a coup against his father King David, but he failed. Joab (the king's general) knew that Absalom had to die, and so it was. Sometimes the gospel (good news) of deliverance and salvation comes at a very high price. After a decisive battle, Joab sent messengers with the "good news" to the king; [2 Sam. 18: 24-33](#).

Never Alone!

What is the Christian to do? [Psa. 34:14](#). The best thing for us is to find strength in our brethren. [Rom. 12:9-10](#). In our Christian brethren we find peace and strength to continue to serve God faithfully. [Ecc. 4:12](#) "And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." The message here is simple; two or three together, have more of a chance of surviving Satan's attacks to make one fall. Standing alone, the chances are small to none that the believer will resist temptation.

Conclusion_

No matter what obstacles are thrown at us, together, we will overcome them! By choosing to serve the Lord, we have chosen to abandon the world and its pleasures. We cannot be unequally yoked with anything hindering our Christian service. If we feel anything is pulling us away from God and not towards him, we should cut it off or avoid it. This is the only thing that matters, serving God. We should always examine ourselves and jettison anything causing us to sink. It is time to abandon the world and take hold of the truth. If you would like to serve the Lord, confess him as the Son of God and be baptized for the remission of your sins.

Ω