

SHOULD A CHRISTIAN MARRY A NON-CHRISTIAN?

“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?” (2 Corinthians 6:14-15).

This is the word of God through Apostle Paul. Though Paul in this letter did not specifically mention marriage, the verse is equally applicable in the marriage context.

Let us first of all find out what a 'yoke' is. In the literal sense, a 'yoke' is a bar or frame of wood by which two oxen are joined at the neck for working together. Farmers usually fix it on the necks of animals for ploughing and for other farm works. So, when two animals are yoked together, it means a bar (yoke) is placed at their necks so as to pull a load to plough a land or achieve the intended purpose.

Now when a Christian is yoked together with a non-Christian in marriage, the imagery is like a donkey sharing a yoke with cattle. That is an error because a donkey and cattle are two different animals with different interests. As a result they will be working against each other instead of pulling the load together to achieve the intended purpose.

It is incompatible for a Christian to yoke himself with a non-Christian in marriage. That is unconcord because they are two different people with different interests. As a result they will be working against each other, arguing and fighting here and there instead of working together to glorify God.

We see example of this in the life of Sampson. The parents of Samson asked him; "Isn't there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?" But Samson said to his father, "get her for me. She's the right one for me" (Judges 14:3).

The Philistines were generally idol worshippers and for an Israelite to marry a Philistine was not an option. It was therefore a grave mistake for Samson to see a Philistine woman as the "right one" to marry.

Samson could have married from his tribe or even go outside his tribe to other tribes of Israelite. But for him to move from his tribe, the whole of Israel and marry a Philistine woman was a deadly error. In the same way a Christian can marry from his Church or other Christian Churches with common faith, but for a Christian to move from his Church, the whole of Christianity and marry a non-Christian is a deadly choice.

There is no spiritual harmony in a marriage between a Christian and Non-Christian. As said earlier, they will be working against each other, arguing and fighting here and there because they are two people with different interests. The effects of such a marriage do not only affect the couples but can go a long way to affect the lives of their children and grandchildren.

Dear brethren, marriage can make or un-make you. If you are a Christian and you want a happy marriage that won't hinder your Christian life, then marrying a non-Christian is not an option. Christians are called to evangelize the non-Christians and not to be intimate with them in marriage. Remember, God will not give you a spouse who will take you from Him.