



Today's Message

Date: March 24, 2019
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***Go Hard After Holiness***

Text: 2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1 (ESV)

^{6:14} Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵ What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

“I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.

¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst,
and be separate from them, says the Lord,
and touch no unclean thing;
then I will welcome you,

¹⁸ and I will be a father to you,
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,
says the Lord Almighty.”

^{7:1} 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.

Introduction: The apostle Paul called the church to holiness. He explained that the nature of God and his word demands it. He further explained that God promises to be with his holy church and love his holy people as a father. In view of God's promises, Paul challenged the church to go hard after holiness

I. The command: Stop being yoked with unbelievers. 6:14a

Three questions:

- A. What is a *yoke*?
- B. What does it mean to be *unequally* yoked?
- C. Who is the *unbeliever*?

II. The first explanation: Believers and unbelievers share nothing that really matters. 6:14b-16a

- A. We differ regarding *morality*.
- B. We differ regarding *truth*.
- C. We differ regarding our *masters*.
- D. We differ regarding *spiritual life*.
- E. We differ regarding *worship*.

III. The second explanation: God makes “great and precious promises” to believers alone. 6:16b-18

- A. We have the promise of God’s presence. 16b
- B. We have the consequent responsibility to separate. 17a
- C. We have the promise of a loving relationship with God. 17b-18

IV. The application: Pursue holiness. 7:1

- A. Pursue both external and internal holiness.
- B. Let God’s promises motivate you to pursue holiness.
- C. Don’t be satisfied with anything less than holiness.
- D. In all things, *fear the Lord!*

Today’s take-home truth: Go hard after holiness.