

# PURSUING HOLINESS

1. **For...** we are a \_\_\_\_\_ of the living God. (16b)

we are the \_\_\_\_\_ ones. (17)

we are God's \_\_\_\_\_. (18)

2. **Do not...** \_\_\_\_\_ with the ungodly. (14-16a)

3. **Since** we have these promises... \_\_\_\_\_ your life from sin. (7:1)

TRANSFORMED

## 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

<sup>[14]</sup> Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? <sup>[15]</sup> What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? <sup>[16]</sup> 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.

<sup>[17]</sup> Therefore go out from their midst,  
and be separate from them, says the Lord,  
and touch no unclean thing;  
then I will welcome you,  
<sup>[18]</sup> and I will be a father to you,  
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,  
says the Lord Almighty.”

<sup>[7:1]</sup> 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. (ESV)

# Pursuing Holiness

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August 22, 2021

**Open:** What are some ways Christians are different from others?

**Read & Discuss:** 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

1. In verse 14 Paul says to “not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.” Looking at the focus of the questions Paul asks in verses 14-16a (“partnership,” “fellowship,” “accord,” “portion,” “agreement”), what do you think it means to be yoked together with someone? How can a Christian and a non-Christian associate together and not be “yoked”?
2. In verses 16b-18, Paul says one reason we should not be yoked with unbelievers is because of our relationship with God. How does Paul describe our relationship with God? How should this description make a difference in how we see ourselves and our relationship with others?
3. How would you put 7:1 in your own words? What is your emotional reaction to this verse? How should the promises of verses 16b-18 motivate us to obey verse 7:1?
4. This passage speaks about separation from the world. What are some ways that the world’s values and philosophies become absorbed by believers? Should Christians withdraw from society in order to main our purity as believers? Why or why not? How can the church pursue purity without isolating itself?
5. Paul often expresses love for others by calling them to holiness (7:1). We live in a culture that defines “love” as encouraging others to live however they want to. How do you think our culture’s concept of love is negatively impacting the church’s overall pursuit of holiness? How can believers encourage each other toward holiness in a way that is effective?
6. Given what Paul says in this passage, how would you counsel another Christian whom you believe has become unequally yoked together with an unbeliever? (That is, what should they do and why?)

**Apply:** What can you do this week to pursue holiness for yourself or to encourage holiness in others?

**Pray:** Pray that we would be careful in our relationships with unbelievers, so that we avoid being unequally yoked together with them while still being close enough to them that we are able to point them to Christ. Pray as well that we’d be people who joyfully pursue personal holiness.

## 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

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