

FOMO

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

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? 1 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,** 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.**

Premise

While this is a recently coined term and study, FOMO, the fear of missing out has been around for centuries. People experiencing anxiety, stress of the perception of missing out and the compulsive behavior to stay socially connected. It is associated to problematic social media usage and can be experienced as a range of negative emotions and feelings related to the need to belong. Yet some psychologist expanded fomo beyond social media to characterize the desire to stay connected to what others are doing.

This is not a contemporary issues. Paul is addressing the same challenge in this passage. He calls the attention of the believers to see how they have remained socially connected to their old culture for the fear of missing out.

Even after coming to faith in Jesus Christ, they still had tethers to their own enmeshments and the wider Greco-Roman culture.

How do we deal with FOMO?

(6:14) Unyoke yourself - Unhook yourself from anything or anyone who is pulling you in the opposite direction of God.

Greek compound word used heterozugountes
heteros, meaning "different/other kind," and *zugos*, meaning "a yoke"

Here's an immediate application:

Only established intimate connections, binding agreements and covenant unions with like-minded believers pulling towards Christ.

Each rhetorical question posed by Paul is emphasizing that believers must make a decisive choice about who they are, who they follow and what they allow themselves to be yoked to.

Partnership - this questions if good can get along with evil;

What partnership does conformity have with rebellion?

Fellowship - this is a questions of proximity

How close can light get to darkness?

Accord - this questions if Christ is friends with satan;

Pay attention to the blaring clash of stated identity and purpose.

John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Portion - this is a question of commonality & compromise.

Those faithful to the Lord do not share compromising enterprise or practices with those who deny the gospel.

Agreement - this is a question of covenant

The temple of God, the presence of God does not share space with idols.

(6:17) Come out from among them - The instruction is clear to say that there are people and associations that God is calling you to come away from. As you coming out KEEP YOUR HANDS clean.

The final instruction in this pericope of scripture is to (7:1) **Cleanse ourselves**

- cleanse - *conscious conditioning - train, make accustom, bring to a desired state of use*
[Jos. 24.; 1 Thess. 4:3-8] ourselves - *you do it first* [Matt. 7:1-5]

- **This is sanctification - the progressive work done *WITH* Holy Spirit, not to be confused with justification - the completed work of Christ (Romans 3:20).**

Jesus saves our souls but it is through sanctification that our appetites are cleansed from our past. We have been forgiven yet our bodies and our must be redeemed. It is through conscious conditioning that Holy Spirit redeems our minds. (Roms 12:1; Eph. 5:26)

- **Cleanse - Read the word and literally do what it says.**

We cleanse ourselves by renewing our minds with the word of God and walking according to the Spirit of God.

- from every defilement (2 Cor. 6:14-16) - sin - sinfulness, boastful sinner
Defilement simply means filth, stain.

- **Need help identifying the filth? 1 Corinthians 5:11**

v.11 but now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who says their a brother if they are sexually immoral, greedy, an idolater, reviler, drunkard or swindler - not even to eat with them.

Sexually immoral (practices fornication, morally impure)

Greedy (eager for more, covetous, busy for gain)

Idolater (worshipper of false idols)

Revilers (uses insulting language, mockers, abusive speakers, slanders)

Dunkard (given to excessive drinking or intoxication)

Swindler (robber, stealing by force or fraud)

- **body and spirit - *yielding of your entire being***

The mention of body and spirit is a call to live an integrated life. It is the understanding that our entire being must be yielded.

bringing holiness to completion - *total separation unto God*

We bring holiness to completion by continual movement toward God...

in the fear of God.

- **FEAR - this word means alarm, fright, to be put in fear of, TERROR**

10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. 11

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.” 2 Cor. 5:10-11b

The fear of the Lord will be evident by the continual separation of your life to Him, through obedience to His word.

Be persuaded that what you read is real! Be persuaded by the promises...

Fear of Missing the Promise

Promises to welcome us, gather us, be present with us, to adopt us,

FOMO leads us further from God while the Fear of God draws us to Him.