

Discipleship Class

Wednesday the 4th of June 2008

Bethesda Bible Church



Topic: Partnership With Unbelievers

Facilitator: Pastor Thivha Lidzhade

Time 18h30

Today's discussion is slightly different from what we were discussing the previous weeks. This was based on an agreement from everyone who was present and I felt it will be fair to treat a topic that was burning and important to the class.

This is a very touchy topic in that it seems to be restricting people's associations and partnerships; however the Bible is very clear on this topic.

(2Co 6:14-16 KJV). Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

(1Co 15:33 AMP) Do not be so deceived and misled! Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt and deprave good manners and morals and character.

- *Does it mean that we should not talk to or visit unbelievers? What about Jesus? He ate at Zacchaeus' house, who was a sinner.*
The Bible is talking about partnerships and friendship, not visiting and talking to people, otherwise where will we live?
Look at the Message Translations:
(2Co 6:14 MSG) Don't become partners with those who reject God. How can you make a partnership out of right and wrong? That's not partnership; that's war. Is light best friends with dark?

Partnership with unbelievers, according to the Message translation, is war, because these are people who have rejected God. Imagine you have a business partner who is not born again; you believe in paying tithes and prayer for your business to be successful, he believes he must call a witchdoctor to initiate the business. There will definitely be serious conflicts. ***That's not partnership; that's war.***

- *What about relationships? Can I marry someone who is not born again?* Think of it this way, Osama bin Laden's daughter wants to marry George Bush's son. Will Bin Laden approve such a marriage? What about Bush, will he bless such a union? Where is the problem? Of course they love each other and that should not be a problem to anybody. Do you think such a marriage will ever happen? Now, we all know that the devil is an enemy of God, so how can His children be partners with children of His arch-enemy? Evil companionships will drift you away from God. Most people who are tempted to do this have very good reasons, one of the obvious one being that they cannot get what they call a right partner in the Body of Christ. Are you saying it is better to disobey God if you can't find a suitable partner? Would it be better to wait? The same story happened to King Solomon, ***(1Ki 11:3-4) And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.***
- *What if I met my partner in church? How will I know he/she is born again or serious with the things of God?* Rather make a mistake in your quest to obey God than disobey God. If you give your relationship time, you should know your partner. Give it the test of time. As Christians we should always ask for God's direction and He will direct our steps.
- *What if we were married before we were born-again, should I divorce my partner now that I am born again?* ***(1Co 7:12-13 GNB) To the others I say (I, myself, not the Lord): if a Christian man has a wife who is an unbeliever and she agrees to go on living with him, he must not divorce her. And if a Christian woman is***

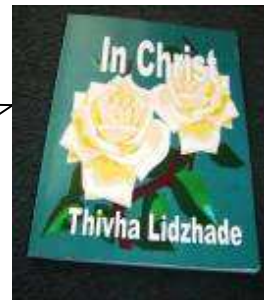
married to a man who is an unbeliever and he agrees to go on living with her, she must not divorce him.

(1Co 7:39KJV) The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

- *If we were lovers before we were born again, should we separate after being born again? Think about this, he/she believes in sex before marriage and you know that sex before marriage is sin? Your principles are not the same. **That's not partnership; that's war.***
- Does God recognize a marriage outside His Kingdom? There are principles that work for everyone, like 'Give and it shall be given back to you' or 'You shall reap what you sow'. These are principles that work for everybody just like the force of gravity. Read 1 Cor 7.

This goes for all partnerships, not only marriage.

To be continued.....



Recommended reading:

Hebrews, Romans, Galatians and I John

Read the book, **In Christ** by Thivha Lidzhade
Available from Bethesda Bookshop
011 839 2910, 072 717 0660 thivha@gmail.com

If you have not accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior and you would like to accept Him, pray this short prayer:

***Heavenly Father, I heard Your Word.
I acknowledge that I am a sinner.
I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
I believe that He died for my sins.
I believe that He was made a curse so I could be the
righteousness of God.
I confess with my mouth that He is Lord of my life.
Thank you Lord for making me Your child.
In Jesus' name. Amen!***

**If you prayed this prayer, YOU ARE NOW A CHILD OF GOD!!!
Contact us soon or join a word-based church near you!!!!**