

# Message Notes

## Who are you yoked to?

# Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Legacy Campaign Update

**Introduction** – How does the church involve itself with those outside the church?

Seclusion / Separation / “IN but not OF” / Syncretism

**Today’s Message:**

**Watch who you are yoked with!**  
2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

### 1. Don’t be “yoked together with unbelievers”.

**What is this all about?**  
2 Corinthians 6:14a

**A. Follow the context**  
2 Corinthians 5:11-12

2 Corinthians 5:16-20

2 Corinthians 6:11-13, 7:2-5

Observations:

### B. What is an “unbeliever” in the original context here?

Possibilities:

1. *Anyone who is not a follower of Jesus Christ in Corinth*

2. *Idolaters who are in or are close to the church*

1 Corinthians 5:9-10

3. *The false apostles who have infiltrated Corinth*

Four ways to be an “unbeliever”

1. Do not believe, and live like one
2. Do not believe and live morally
3. “Believe” and live immorally
4. “Believe” and live really morally and look down on those outside the faith

Only one way to be a “believer” – the gospel way:

### C. What does it mean to be “yoked”?

Definition:

On “being unequally yoked in marriage”

1 Corinthians 7:39

1 Corinthians 9:5

### 2. Paul’s Support for not being yoked to unbelievers

2 Corinthians 6:14b-16a

- A. RIGHTEOUSNESS vrs. WICKEDNESS
- B. LIGHT vrs. DARKNESS
- C. CHRIST vrs. BELIAL
- D. BELIEVER vrs. UNBELIEVER
- E. TEMPLE OF GOD vrs. TEMPLE OF IDOLS

### 3. Old Testament Examples of not being yoked to unbelievers

2 Corinthians 6:16b-18

### 4. The restatement of not being yoked to unbelievers

2 Corinthians 7:1

~ purify ourselves

~ perfecting holiness out of fear of God

How does the church engage the world? A fifth option: Transformational Engagement

**Gospel Application** – “How will you engage your world? How will you stay gospel pure?”

### 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

<sup>14</sup>Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? <sup>15</sup>What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup>What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.” <sup>17</sup>“Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” <sup>18</sup>“I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” <sup>19</sup>Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.



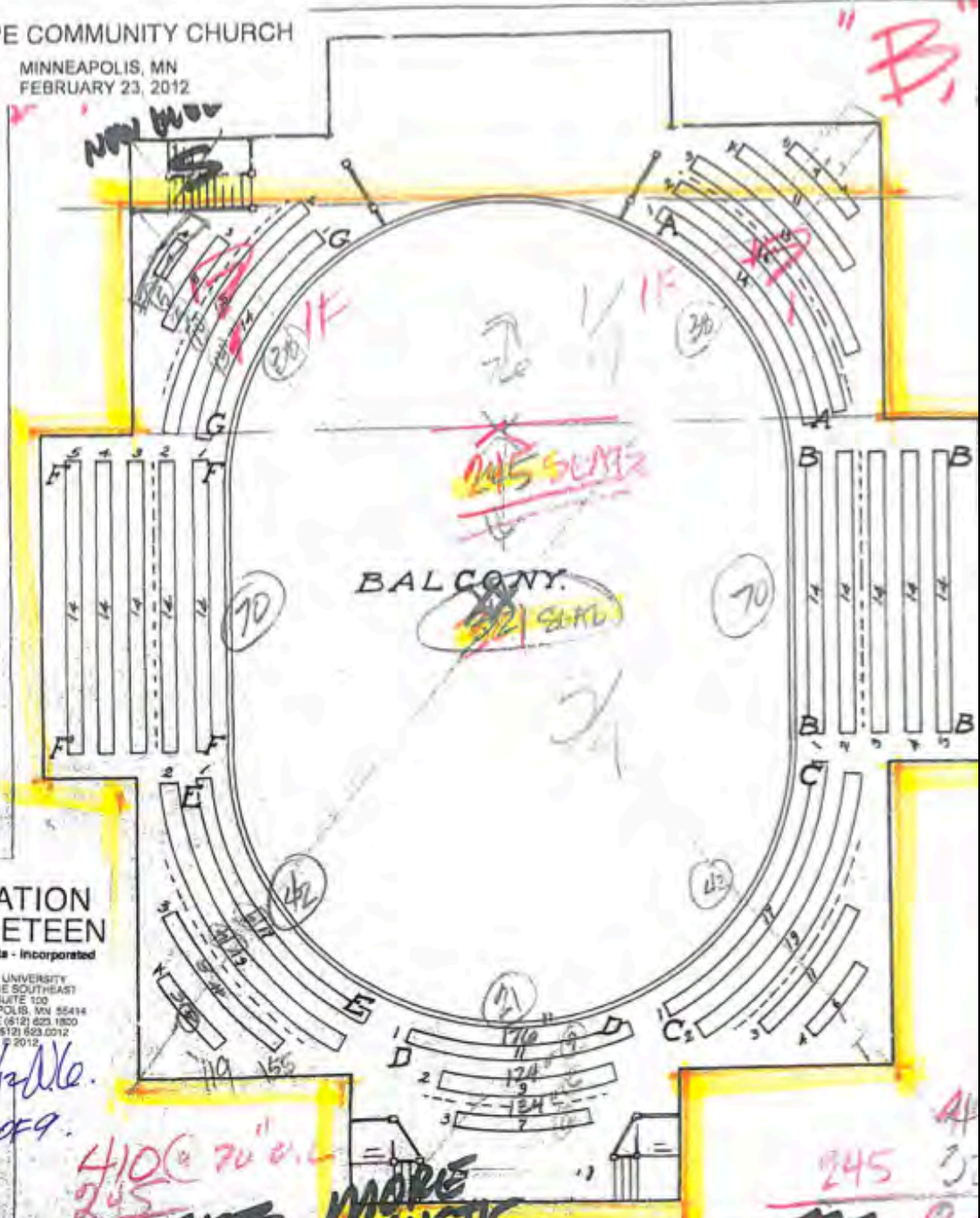
March 25<sup>th</sup> - Kick Off  
Commitments for Time, Talents and Treasure  
Trying to raise just north of \$1,000,000





HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

MINNEAPOLIS, MN  
FEBRUARY 23, 2012



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4/23/12 N.E.  
2 OF 9

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245  
MORE  
EFFICIENT...  
DYNAMIC

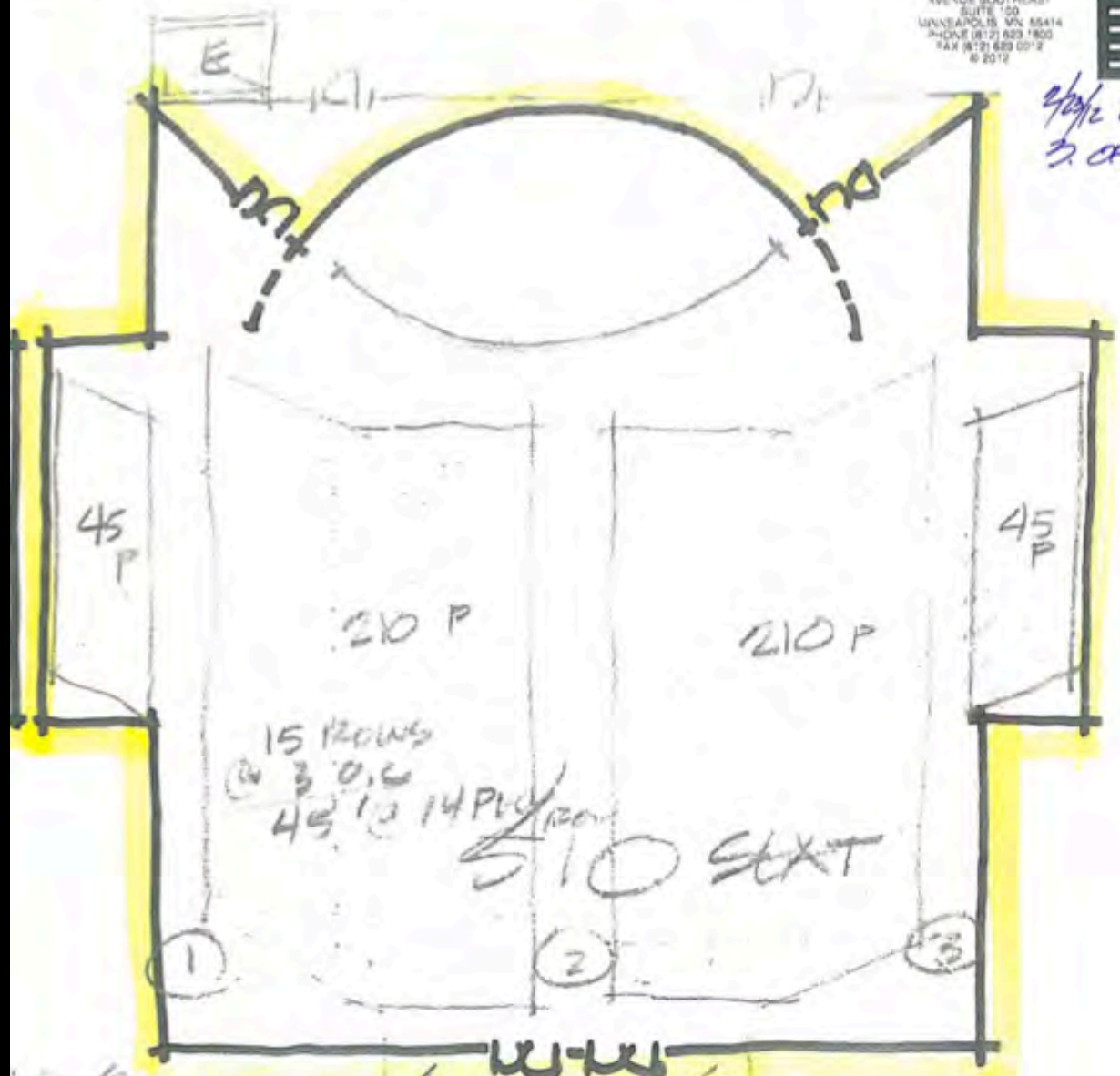
245  
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ENTRANCE w/ a ramp

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2/20/12  
3. OF.



15 ROWS  
@ 3'0" C  
45' x 14' PER ROW

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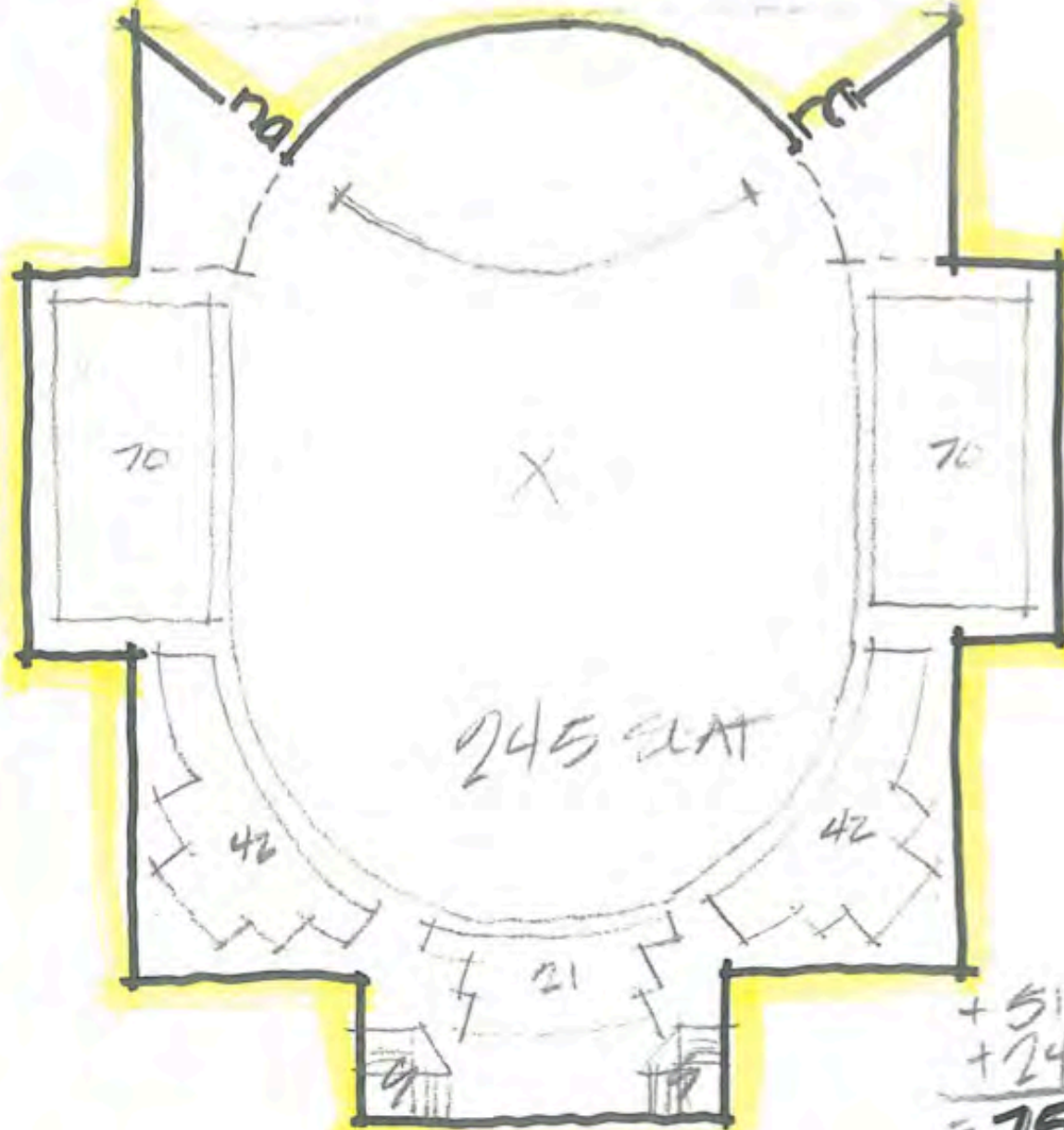
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4 W-W 4

SEAT IF RE-SET?

COMMUNITY CHURCH

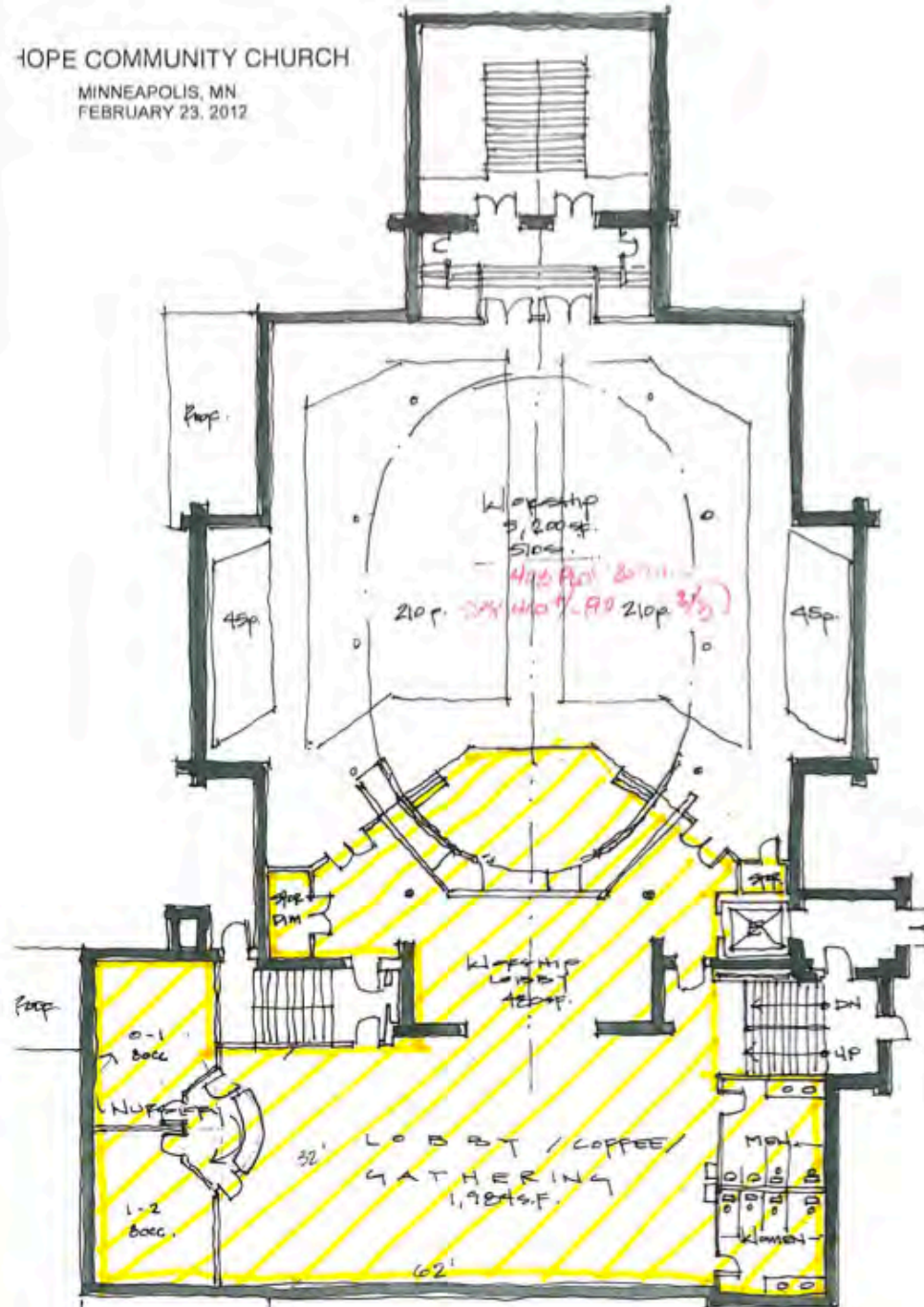
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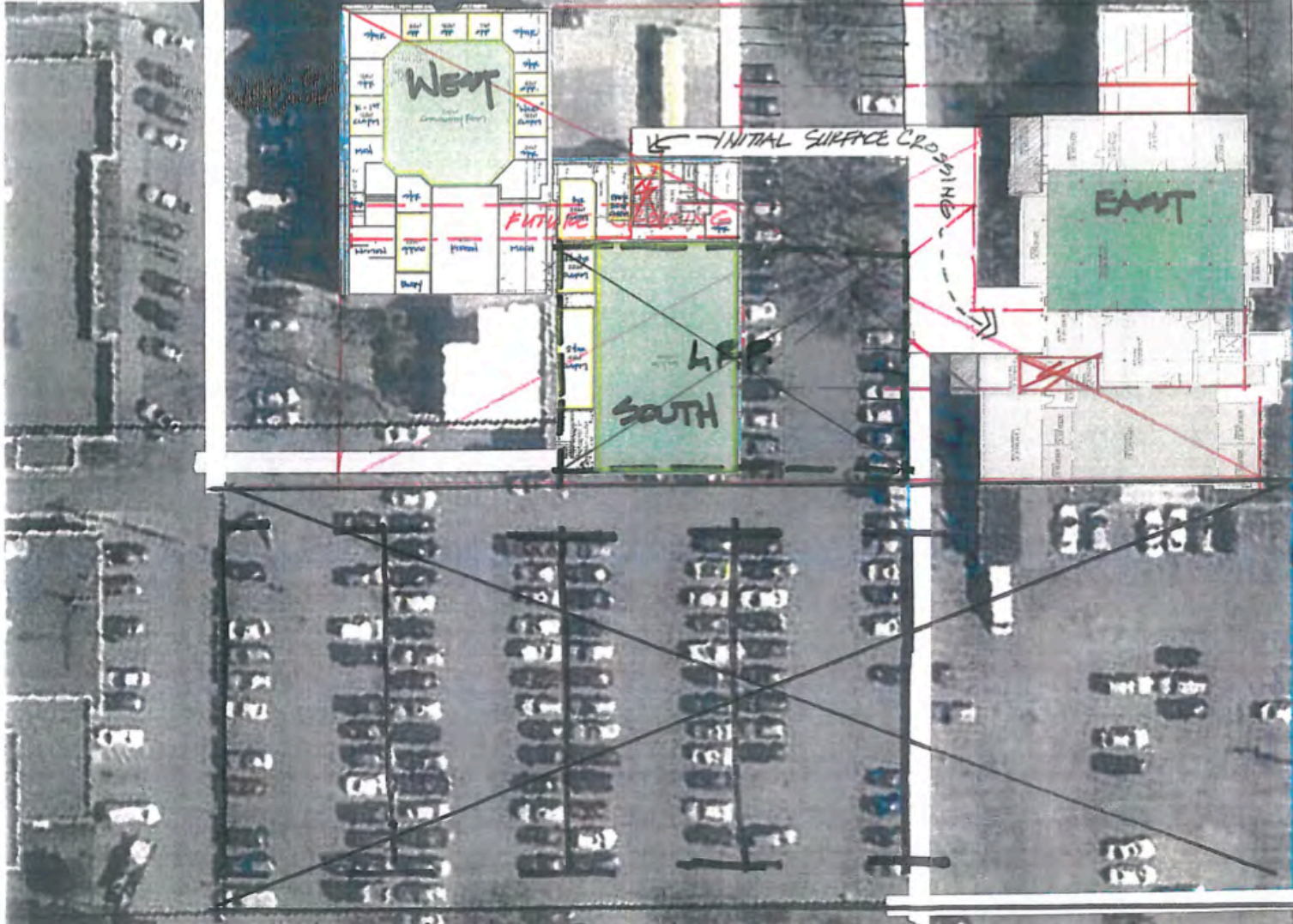
MAIN LEVEL PLAN - OPTION #2



OPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

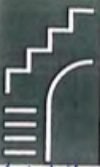
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FIRST LEGACY



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*Handwritten signature*  
7. OF 9.

*[www.hopecc.com/legacy](http://www.hopecc.com/legacy)*



# The Legacy Campaign

*Leaving our mark on the City, State, and the World.*

ABOUT **GIVE** PROMOTE

## 1 WILL YOU CONSIDER GIVING?

This is a large endeavor. We *need* your help. The hard part about a growing church is that it can often get hit by the bystander effect – people just assume that other people will take care of it. It can happen with discipleship, evangelism, giving, and service. Don't let that happen here. We need **YOU!**

*Has Hope been a blessing to you in some way?* Maybe God used it to bless you while you were in college. Maybe God used it and you heard the gospel for the first time in your life. Maybe God used it as influential instrument in the life of a loved one. Maybe God used it to ignite your faith in ways it hadn't been previously. We want to continue to help as many people as possible become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Can you help us do that?

Throughout this process, there will be countless opportunities for you to sacrificially give from your time, talents, treasure, and tither (your heart). Sacrifice, by definition, means that it's giving up of something. We know we're asking a lot. But we're hopefully and trusting that God will allow you see what He's doing, and that it would be an excitement and joy for you to take part in it!

## 2 FILL OUT A PLEDGE CARD

Here you can communicate how you'd like to be involved!

[PLEDGE CARD](#)

## 3 FOLLOW THROUGH

Please follow through with the commitments you made in the pledge card.

[JOIN THE CITY GROUP](#)

To join the Legacy Campaign Group on The City

[GIVE ONLINE](#)

To give electronically (Give in the "The Legacy Campaign" line)

[GIVE BY CHECK](#)

To give by check, simply follow our Giving Instructions, and write "Legacy" in the memo line.



How does the church involve itself with those outside the church?

# *1. Seclusion*



How does the church involve itself with those outside the church?

## *2. Separation*



REJECTION

It starts from an early age. Get used to it!

How does the church involve itself with those outside the church?

3. *Grin and Bear it!*

*“IN but not OF”*



How does the church involve itself with those outside the church?

## 4. *Syncretism*





How does the church involve itself with those outside the church?

## 4. *Syncretism*



A STUDY OF 2 CORINTHIANS



# BRIDEZILLA RETURNS

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IN COLOR



## 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

<sup>14</sup>Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? <sup>15</sup>What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup>What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God.

## 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

<sup>17</sup>“Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.”

<sup>18</sup>“I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”

## **2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1**

<sup>1</sup>Since we have these promises, dear friends,  
let us purify ourselves from everything that  
contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness  
out of reverence for God.



**THE  
MINISTRY OF  
RECONCILIATION**

**Don't be Yoked Together  
with Unbelievers**

**1. Don't be yoked together with unbelievers.  
What's this all about?**



# 1. Don't be yoked together with unbelievers. What's this all about?

## 2 Corinthians 6:14a

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1. Don't be yoked together with unbelievers.  
What's this all about?
  - a. *Follow the Context*

**1. Don't be yoked together with unbelievers.**

**What's this all about?**

*a. Follow the Context*

## **2 Corinthians 5:11-12**

<sup>11</sup>Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. <sup>12</sup>We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.

# 1. Don't be yoked together with unbelievers.

What's this all about?

*a. Follow the Context*

## 2 Corinthians 5:16-20

<sup>16</sup>So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

<sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us

to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup>that God was reconciling the world to himself in

Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>We are therefore

Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making

his appeal through us.

1. Don't be yoked together with unbelievers.  
What's this all about?
  - a. *Follow the Context*

## 2 Corinthians 6:11-13

<sup>11</sup>We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. <sup>12</sup>We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. <sup>13</sup>As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.

**1. Don't be yoked together with unbelievers.**

**What's this all about?**

*a. Follow the Context*

## **2 Corinthians 7:2-5**

<sup>2</sup>Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have exploited no one. <sup>3</sup>I do not say this to condemn you; I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would live or die with you. <sup>4</sup>I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.

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1. There are people in Corinth who oppose Paul and “take pride in what is seen rather than what is in the heart”
2. The big point of this whole section (2 Corinthians 2:14-7:4) is for Paul to explain and defend his ministry in light of these infiltrators
3. Paul no longer looks at people from a “worldly point of view”
4. Paul views himself and Christians as “ambassadors” for Christ
5. The sandwich concept between our passage (6:14-7:1) is about “opening wide your hearts” to Paul and his team.

**1. Don't be yoked together with unbelievers.**

**What's this all about?**

*b. What is an "unbeliever" in this context?*

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## **2 Corinthians 6:14a**

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**1. Don't be yoked together with unbelievers.**

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**Possibilities:**

1. Anyone who is not a follower of  
Jesus Christ in Corinth

**1. Don't be yoked together with unbelievers.**

**What's this all about?**

*b. What is an "unbeliever" in this context?*

**Possibilities:**

2. Idolaters who are in or close to the church



**1. Don't be yoked together with unbelievers.**

**What's this all about?**

*b. What is an "unbeliever" in this context?*

**Possibilities:**

2. Idolaters who are in or close to the church

**1 Corinthians 5:9-10**

<sup>9</sup>I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people — <sup>10</sup>not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. <sup>11</sup>But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

**1. Don't be yoked together with unbelievers.**

**What's this all about?**

*b. What is an "unbeliever" in this context?*

**Possibilities:**

3. The false apostles who have infiltrated Corinth

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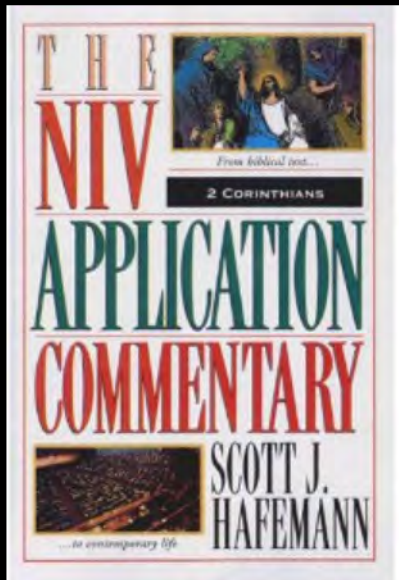
**2 Corinthians 11:13-15**

<sup>13</sup>For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup>And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. <sup>15</sup>It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness.

Their end will be what their actions deserve.

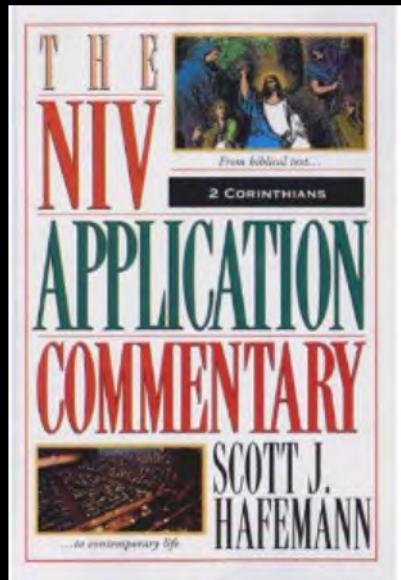


AS OBSERVED ABOVE, this section opens up with a command, just as the last section closed with one. As “believers,” the Corinthians are not to be “yoked together,” in the sense of being hitched up with someone whose yoke does not fit (cf. NRSV: “mismatched”), or be “allied”<sup>5</sup> with “unbelievers” (6:14a). But who are these “unbelievers”? Many take them to be non-Christians in general (as in 1 Cor. 5:10; cf. 6:6, 12–20; 7:12–15; 14:22–24). Others see them more specifically to be those Gentile pagans in Corinth with whom the “strong” had earlier participated in idol feasts (as in 1 Cor. 8:1–11:1; see 10:27).





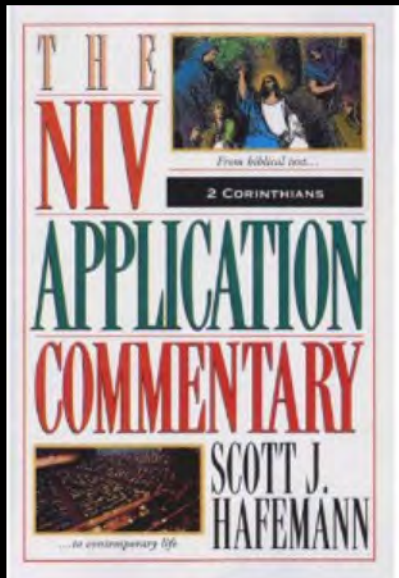
Both of these interpretations can succeed, however, only if 6:14–7:1 is distanced from its *current* context, in which Paul has been fighting for the legitimacy of his apostolic ministry and in which there has been no previous mention of the earlier problems facing the Corinthians. In 2 Corinthians the issue is not the relationship between Christians and the unbelieving world, nor is Paul concerned here, as he was in 1 Corinthians, with the Corinthians' participation in the temple cults and idolatry of Corinth. Rather, if read from the perspective of its own immediate context, Paul's command in 6:14 is the specific application of his more general command in 6:13. "Not to be yoked together with unbelievers" (6:14) is one way in which the Corinthians are to "open wide [their] hearts" to Paul.





Given the polemic situation in which Paul finds himself, “opening up” to him will necessarily entail closing themselves off from those who oppose him, whom the apostle now labels “unbelievers.” This statement is shocking because “unbelievers” is not a word Paul ever uses to describe erring but still genuine Christians (e.g., those dealt with in 1 Cor. 3:10–15). Rather, “unbelievers” refers to those who are manifestly outside the sphere of God’s people, even if they profess otherwise (cf. 1 Cor. 6:6; 7:12–15; 10:27; 14:22–24; 2 Cor. 4:4; 1 Tim. 5:8; Titus 1:15–16).

~ Scott Hafemann, *NIV Application Commentary*, pages 279-280.



# Four ways to be an “unbeliever”

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1. Do not believe, and live like one



# Four ways to be an “unbeliever”

1. Do not believe, and live like one
2. Do not believe and live morally

# Four ways to be an “unbeliever”

1. Do not believe, and live like one
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3. “Believe” and live immorally

# Four ways to be an “unbeliever”

1. Do not believe, and live like one
2. Do not believe and live morally
3. “Believe” and live immorally
4. “Believe” and live really morally and look down on those outside the faith

Only one way to be a “believer”

Only one way to be a “believer”

THE GOSPEL WAY:

Only one way to be a “believer”

# THE GOSPEL WAY:

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ  
with all your heart as your

SAVIOR

LORD

GUIDE

And live in such a way that Jesus Christ is Lord in your  
life AND realize that no one is better or worse than you.

ALL need Jesus!

**1. Don't be yoked together with unbelievers.**

**What's this all about?**

*c. What does it mean to be "unequally yoked"?*

**1. Don't be yoked together with unbelievers.**

**What's this all about?**

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## **2 Corinthians 6:14a**

<sup>14</sup>Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? <sup>15</sup>What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup>What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God.



**1. Don't be yoked together with unbelievers.**

**What's this all about?**

*c. What does it mean to be "unequally yoked"?*

**Definition:**

draft animals that need different kinds of yokes, because they are of different species [e.g., an ox and a donkey]

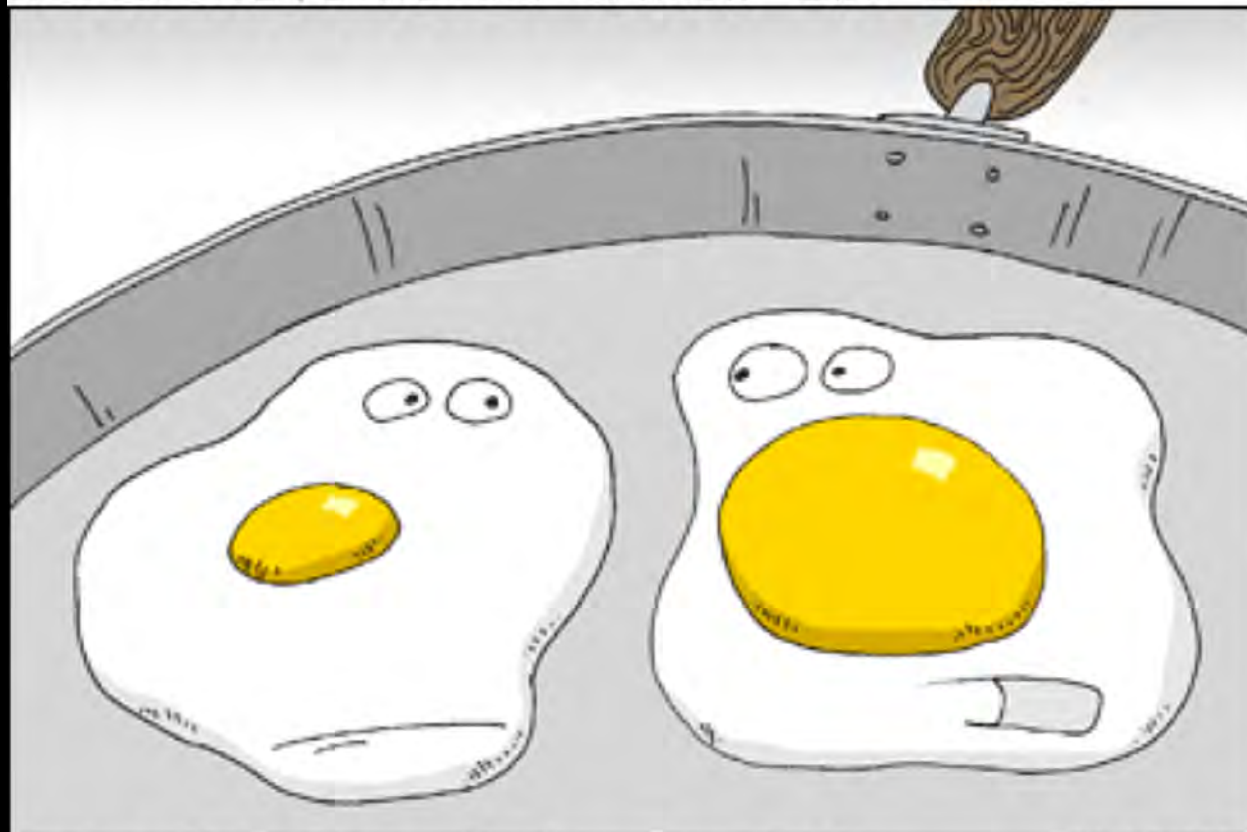
~ Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., & Bauer, W. (2000). *A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament*







**UN-EQUALLY  
YOKED**



Thanks to Michael Foster (See 2Corinthians 6:14)

02-06-2004

I CAN'T DATE YOU ... WE ARE UNEQUALLY  
YOLKED

## **1 Corinthians 7:39**

A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives.  
But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she  
wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.

## **1 Corinthians 7:39**

A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.

## **1 Corinthians 9:5**

Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas?

“Many are of opinion that he speaks of marriage, but the context clearly shows that they are mistaken. The word that Paul makes use of means — to be connected together in drawing the same yoke. It is a metaphor taken from oxen or horses, which require to walk at the same pace, and to act together in the same work, when fastened under one yoke. When, therefore, he prohibits us from having partnership with unbelievers in drawing the same yoke, he means simply this, that we should have no fellowship with them in their pollutions.”

~ John Calvin, *Commentary on 2 Corinthians 6:14*





## 2. Paul's support for not being unequally yoked

### *Five Rhetorical Questions*

## 2. Paul's support for not being unequally yoked

### *Five Rhetorical Questions*

#### **2 Corinthians 6:14b-16**

<sup>14</sup>Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? <sup>15</sup>What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup>What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God.

# 3. Old Testament Examples

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#### 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

<sup>17</sup>“Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.”

<sup>18</sup>“I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”

# 4. Restating the Main Point

## 4. Restating the Main Point

### 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

<sup>1</sup>Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.



# Ed Stetzer

The LifeWay Research Blog

I've received several emails asking me to comment on engaging culture. I will work on a blog post on the topic, but let me share some quotes in the meantime that might foster some discussion. Engaging culture, contextualization,

and relevance are common issues in missiological discussion. They tend to be assumed as we are engage in God's global mission. As I see it, it is both necessary and dangerous to engage culture. I believe (and have often said) that the church must be a biblically faithful, culturally relevant, counterculture community for the kingdom of God.

~ As quoted off Ed's Blog - <http://www.edstetzer.com/2010/04/how-do-we-engage-culture.html>

**How does the church involve itself with those outside the church?**



How does the church involve itself with those outside the church?

*5. Transformational  
Engagement*

**engage**

**THE WORLD**

# Gospel Application

# Gospel Application

What are you yoked to that is leading your heart away from Jesus?

# Gospel Application

Are you making the errors of either *separation* from or *syncretism* into the world?