

the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."⁴⁸ And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.⁵¹ But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium.

Possible Action > **"shake the dust"** of your feet and move on (v. 51)

When = unbelievers proclaim **false teaching** (Acts 20:28-31)

^{ESV} **Acts 20:28** Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears.

Possible Action > **"be alert"** and don't give in (v. 31)

When = unbelievers practice **dark works** (Eph 5:6-14)

^{ESV} **Ephesians 5:6** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.⁷ Therefore do not associate with them;⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible,¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Possible Action > **"take no part"** in what they do (v. 11)

When = unbelievers **love the world** instead of the Father (1 John 2:15-17)

^{ESV} **1 John 2:15** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.¹⁶ For all that is in the world- the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions- is not from the Father but is from the world.¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Possible Action > **"don't love the world"** and the things in it (v. 15)

Sunday, October 19, 2025
Danny Capon, *Pastor*

A Theology of Disagreement
No. 11 | Maintaining Disagreement, pt. 2
Selected Scriptures

Review

A Theology of Disagreement

We can disagree about what **is** (reality).
We can disagree about what it **means** (interpretation).
We can disagree about what is **right** (righteous).
We can disagree about what is **best** (wisdom).
We can disagree about what we should **care** about (values).
We can disagree about what we should **want** (desires).
We can disagree about what we are **okay** with (submission).

- A disagreement is a situation in which two parties do not have the same opinion.
- A disagreement occurs, most observably, because no two parties are exactly the same and both parties are naturally morally corrupt.
- A disagreement may not initially be morally consequential or result in immoral conduct between two parties.
- A disagreement may also start out immorally by one or both parties, and proceed quickly to conflict or a range of other relationally-charged actions.

Maintaining Disagreement, pt. 2

with Unbelievers

How should we handle disagreement with unbelievers? Are there scenarios where we should maintain disagreement with them?

How should we think about the relationship between believers and unbelievers?

There are two types of people in the world

- Believers
- Unbelievers

^{ESV} **2 Thessalonians 1:7** ...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.⁹ They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,¹⁰ when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

Every person begins life in the world as an unbeliever

^{ESV} **John 3:18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and

people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.²⁰
For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

- We are all united together in this way as humans
- And yet we naturally do not get along with anyone

God the Father sent His Son into the world to save sinners from the penalty of their sin

ESV **Romans 3:22** ...For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

- As natural born sinners, we are all deserving of God's wrath
- But Jesus Christ died in our place for our sin

Anyone who places their faith in Jesus Christ has eternal life

ESV **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- If I am a believer, I was dead but now I am alive
- If I am a believer, I am to live like it and I can

Salvation in Jesus Christ is available to anyone, and is only applied individually by grace through faith. So, its not as if any believer (or believers, together) has any room for boasting in self (merit, worth, etc.).

Two types of scenarios of maintaining disagreement with unbelievers:

- **Maintain disagreement, and avoid unequally yoking with them**

ESV **2 Corinthians 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.

Who is Paul talking about?

Believers and Unbelievers

What is Paul talking about?

Believers being "**unequally yoked**" with Unbelievers

What does it mean to be "unequally yoked"?

The word itself...

How the word is often understood...

Related words in the context...

"partnership" (v. 14), "fellowship" (v. 14), "accord" (v. 15), "portion" (v. 15), "agreement" (v. 16)

The context itself...

- It has to do with their "affections" (6:12; cf. 7:15)
- It has to do with them relating to unbelievers in a way that is incompatible with their relationship to the Lord (6:14-16)
- It has to do with their identification as a people and thus their practice accordingly (6:16-18)
- It has to do with them relating to other believers (in this case, the apostle Paul)—how close they were to him, how they prioritized their relationship with him, how they listened to him, how they shared with him in his ministry, and how they adhered to correct teaching and practice (6:11-13; 7:2-4; 11:1-15)

Why shouldn't they be "unequally yoked"?

Believers are "the temple of the living God" (6:16ff)

What doesn't it mean to be "unequally yoked"?

See 1 Cor 5:9-11; 7:12-14; 10:27; 14:22-24

"As 1 Corinthians indicates, Paul does not intend for members of the church to cut off all association with unbelievers (1 Cor. 5:9-11). The problem stems from the Corinthians adopting the moral standards of the world (2 Cor. 7:1). The affections of the Corinthians have been corrupted morally, and their sin is affecting their relationship with God and his apostle....So Paul calls them to disassociate from unbelievers, not in the sense of their influence on unbelievers for the sake of the gospel, but in the sense of unbelievers' immoral influence on the Corinthians." (George Guthrie, p. 350)

- **Maintain disagreement, and distance yourself from them**

When = unbelievers are **consistently antagonistic** (Acts 13:44-52)

ESV **Acts 13:46** And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles." ⁴⁷ For so