

CHRISTIANS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO FORM ALLIANCES WITH NON-CHRISTIANS

IN MODERN TIMES it is very common for Christian groups to join forces with non-Christian organizations in order to accomplish some social goal – be it protesting abortion, or feeding the hungry, or whatever the hot topic of the day might be. Christians will form alliances with Catholics, Muslims, Mormons, Jews, and anyone else they can find in order to accomplish their goals, and most people don't even think twice about it. After all, although we may have our differences we all agree on this one area, so why not work together?

The answer is simple: *because God forbids it*. Our generation has forgotten the principle of separation, and the consequences have been devastating. The Church desperately needs to learn that ecumenicism – the idea that we should all get along and work together no matter what we believe – does *not* come from God. In fact, God is so opposed to it that He promised to curse those who are involved in such things!

I realize that's a strong statement, so let's look at what the Bible has to say. In 2 Chronicles 18 we find the story of King Jehoshaphat and King Ahab. Jehoshaphat was a wise and godly king who was blessed by the Lord with great riches and honor. Ahab was an incredibly evil king who married the even-more-evil

Jezebel. Even though Jehoshaphat and Ahab could not have been more different, the righteous Jehoshaphat still thought it would be a good idea to join forces with wicked Ahab and attack their common enemy:

2 Chronicles 18:1: “Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab.

2 And after certain years he went down to Ahab to Samaria. And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance, and for the people that he had with him, and persuaded him to go up with him to Ramothgilead.

3 And Ahab king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Wilt thou go with me to Ramothgilead? And he answered him, I am as thou art, and my people as thy people; and we will be with thee in the war.”

This is exactly the sort of thing that the modern Church would do. Jehoshaphat was good and Ahab was evil: Jehoshaphat worshiped the true God while Ahab worshiped pagan gods. Since the Syrians posed a threat to both kings, Jehoshaphat thought it made sense for them to work together. As the modern Church would say, this is the Lord's battle, and if we can get unbelievers to join us in our fight then so much the better!

Except the battle did not go well. If you read 2 Chronicles 18 you will see that the prophet Micaiah warned them not to go to war and prophesied that Ahab will be killed. Sure enough, Ahab was slain in battle. When Jehoshaphat returned home, the prophet Jehu rebuked the king for joining forces with Ahab:

2 Chronicles 19:1: “And Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to

Jerusalem.

2 And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the Lord? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the Lord."

The Lord was *not at all* pleased that Jehoshaphat had joined forces with Ahab. Even though they had a common enemy, Jehoshaphat was still forbidden from joining forces with him. The Lord did not see it as attacking a common problem; He saw it as helping the ungodly and aiding those who hate the Lord. What the Lord focused on was the fact that *Jehoshaphat helped Ahab*, a king who hated God. What Jehoshaphat helped him accomplish was beside the point. The Lord was upset that he had helped Ahab *at all*. Because of this, as the prophet Jehu said, "therefore is wrath upon thee from before the Lord."

Some may wonder, didn't the Lord command us to pray for our enemies and do good to them that hate us? Yes, He did. But the Lord did *not* command us to *join forces with them and help them accomplish their goals*. That is an entirely different matter. That is what Jehoshaphat did, and the Lord was very upset about it. The fact that the Syrians were evil and were Jehoshaphat's enemy did not matter to God at all.

Let's look at another case. After Ahab was killed, the evil King Ahaziah came to power. Jehoshaphat thought it would be a good idea for the two of them to join forces and send some ships to Ophir to get gold (1 Kings 22:48). Once again we see a godly king teaming up with an evil king in order to accomplish something. Now, there was nothing wrong with going to Ophir for gold. After all, when King Solomon sent ships to Ophir and acquired great wealth the Lord did not rebuke him (1 Kings 9:27-28). Jehoshaphat thought that their joint venture would enrich both kings.

However, the Lord was not pleased:

2 Chronicles 20:35: "And after this did Jehoshaphat king of Judah join himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who did very wickedly:

36 And he joined himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish: and they made the ships in Eziongaber.

37 Then Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, Because thou hast joined thyself with Ahaziah, the Lord hath broken thy works. And the ships were broken, that they were not able to go to Tarshish."

As you can see, what upset the Lord was *not* the purpose of the voyage. No, what really upset God was the fact that Jehoshaphat had teamed up with the evil Ahaziah. Because Jehoshaphat joined himself with a God-hating king, the Lord destroyed the ships they had made. The Lord *hates* it when His people team up with His enemies in order to accomplish something. It doesn't matter if their goal is noble and worthwhile. *He still hates it*. In fact, He hates it so much that He promises *wrath* upon those who dare to do such things. In the example above, God was so upset at the partnership that He actually destroyed their ships.

This same principle is repeated in the New Testament:

II Corinthians 6:14: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 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.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

People commonly apply this to marriage, but *Paul was not talking about marriage*. Marriage isn't even mentioned anywhere in the chapter! What Paul is saying is that Christians should *not join forces with pagans*. As Paul points out, light has no communion with darkness and righteousness has no fellowship with unrighteousness. They are *different teams entirely* and they are not to be "yoked together" *for any reason*.

Stop and think about it for a minute. How many times did the apostles join forces with pagans in order to accomplish social goals? *Zero times*. How many times did the Church in the New Testament join with idol-worshippers to stamp out poverty, or feed the hungry, or pursue some other goal? *Zero times*. Instead of forming alliances, Paul stood up and condemned this practice. God wants His people to be *separate* from the world. He doesn't want them building alliances with them. Instead He wants His followers to "come out from among them, and be ye separate".

Sadly, the principle of separation is no longer believed by the modern Church. We have rejected the clear teaching of II Corinthians 6:14-17. In fact, we now think that teaming up with God-hating organizations is a great way to get things done! What God has to say about this matter is entirely forgotten – but God does not mince words:

II John 1:10: "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into

your house, neither bid him God speed:

11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

How does God say we should treat those who preach a false gospel? Does He say that we should join forces with them and find areas of commonality so we can build agreements? Absolutely not. What He actually says is that we shouldn't receive them into our home. In fact, we *shouldn't even bid them 'godspeed'*.

Now, when John says "receive him not into your house" he is not forbidding us from inviting them over so we can share the gospel with them. What he *is* saying is that we are not allowed to do anything to help them, either in deed (by giving them a place to stay so they can keep preaching a false gospel) or in word (by bidding them godspeed). John is clear that those who help them (even verbally!) become a "partaker of his evil deeds".

Sadly, the modern Church *loves* to commit this sin. I saw one case where a church learned that a nearby mosque was undergoing renovations. In response the church invited the Muslims to *borrow their sanctuary* so they could keep worshiping their false god. That is exactly the sort of thing that John was condemning, but instead of being dismayed we hold up such terrible sins as examples of "outreach" and "building bridges" and "true love". God, however, calls it *being a partaker of their evil deeds* and He hates it with a passion.

Another common thing is to see famous Christians praise Catholics and Mormons for their good works and their love of God. As I have said many times before, Catholics and Mormons preach a false gospel. Praising and encouraging them goes far beyond "bidding them godspeed" and is *strongly condemned* by the apostle John, but somehow the Bible's disapproval doesn't stop us from finding people who "bring not this doctrine" of saving grace and then doing all we can to encourage them and

make them feel good about themselves.

“Come out from among them, and be ye separate”, the Lord says. *That is the commandment.* God repeats it in Revelation and adds a threat:

Revelation 18:4: "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

In this case the “her” is the evil Babylon, the mother of harlots and abominations. God is commanding His people to come out of that enemy of God and “be not partakers of her sins” – for those who *are* partakers of her sins will also partake of her punishment. How do we become partakers of her sins? By joining forces and helping in word or deed. We become partakers when we refuse to separate ourselves from them.

The modern Church has decided that it is not interested in separation and has instead tried to form alliances with as many god-hating organizations as it can possibly find. The Church has no idea of the great trouble that it is in. God did not hesitate to discipline king Jehoshaphat, and He will not hesitate to discipline us either.

