

Filled with Comfort and Overflowing with Joy

Introduction and Review

- The Christian must not enter a covenant or partnership with an unbeliever – “unequally yoked” (6:14) – religion, marriage or business
- There is no partnership, fellowship, accord, portion or agreement between a believer & an unbeliever (6:15-16a)
- Individually & collectively, believers are the body of Christ or “the temple of the living God (6:16b)
- Believers belong to God & are blessed by His presence (6:16c), are God’s children (6:18) and therefore must be holy (6:17; 7:1)

I. Comfort and Joy Before Reconciliation (v. 2-5)

A. The appeal for reconciliation (v. 2-3)

Reconciliation requires genuine love in both parties involved (v. 2a).

Reconciliation requires honestly facing the facts & misunderstandings (v. 2b-3).

B. Confidence in the appeal for reconciliation (v. 4-5)

Reconciliation requires bold & plain communication (v. 4a). Boldness (Openness) in communication strengthens a relationship & gives

*encouragement (v. 4b-c). Working toward reconciliation brings great joy **even in times of trouble** (v. 4d-5).*

The believer can have God’s comfort & joy before reconciliation.

II. Comfort and Joy After Reconciliation (v. 6-16)

A. Repentance and reconciliation (v. 8-12)

Godly grief & repentance are essential for biblical reconciliation (v. 8-10). The characteristics of true repentance: earnestness, eagerness to clear yourselves, indignation, fear, longing, zeal & punishment (v. 11). Biblical reconciliation must have a godly motive (v. 12).

B. Edification and reconciliation (v. 6-7, 13-16)

News about reconciliation gives encouragement to the perceived offender (v. 6-7). Reconciliation encourages believers in ministry with the perceived offender (v. 13-15). Comfort & joy are the fruit of reconciliation (v. 13, 16).

The believer should have God’s comfort & joy after reconciliation!