

Unequally Yoked

Earlier this month I drove with my parents to Amish country. We were shopping, but not in the traditional way. We were actually at a large horse sale. There were all sorts of horses there—draft horses with their large saucer sized hooves, riding horses, and even miniature ponies. Many of the horses were offered for sale as teams since they were matched evenly and used to working together. The Belgians were teamed together as were the Percherons, Haflingers, and even the miniature ponies.

Not once was a small pony and a giant draft horse sold as a team. An unequally yoked team would have looked pretty silly and needless to say it wouldn't have worked very well. Scripture has quite a few references to a "yoke."

Deuteronomy 22:10 NLT "You must not plow with an ox and a donkey harnessed together.

Matthew 11:30 NIV "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

2 Corinthians 6:14 NIV "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?"

Sadly our society is full of people who are or have been in unequally yoked marital relationships. I counsel many who are saddened when they are not permitted to worship as they would like. Some are not permitted to attend services or to tithe. Others are mocked when they try to read their Bibles or watch Christian television in their own homes and the only scripture their spouses will recite out of context is one about submission. Others are free to worship, but are saddened when they must walk their spiritual journey alone since their spouse is unwilling to participate.

One of the saddest scenarios I have heard recently was from a mother with a young school aged daughter. Her daughter told her that she wanted to someday go to HEAVEN with her and her grandma, but that she also wanted to go to HELL with her daddy. This was not a case of "daddy bashing", but instead the child was well aware that their daddy was into the dark practices of the occult.

I can't imagine how difficult this must be for this family and their daughter. One day she is being taught that $2+2=4$ and the next she is being taught that $2+2=7$. How is this little mind to deal with such confusion especially on such an important topic? I wonder how many other children struggle similarly or equally bad have no spiritual foundation whatsoever.

Unfortunately, some never give faith much consideration when dating today. Many people I talk to cannot tell me if the person they are dating has accepted Christ or not. Somehow this critical

topic is skirted. My inquiries are met with surprise and I get responses like...”He’s spiritual.”, “I think she attends church somewhere.”, or “I don’t know, but he’s a nice guy.” As a society we have lost sight of scripture. John 14:6 ESV Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

It petrifies me that we have not taught our young adults to truly look for the fruit of Christianity in their dates. Have they truly dedicated their lives and fully accepted Christ as their Savior? Does their faith have deep roots? Is it new and only a pretense to secure a relationship?

Those in my circle know that first question I will be asking when I hear that they are dating!!!
What question are you asking?