

“WHAT KIND of LIFE ?”

(2Corinthians 6:1-18)

June 18, 2017

Each of us has ONE life to live.

Paul called upon the church as he calls upon us to live lives that are consistent and APPROPRIATELY separated.

I. The CONSISTENT Life

1. The PLEA

Paul gives this firm reminder: NOW is the time of God's salvation, NOW is the day of salvation. Don't WASTE it!

2. The PRIORITY

The doctor's creed: “First, do no harm.” By clearing a path to Jesus, Paul gives CREDENCE to the ministry the Lord has given him.

3. The PAIN

The pain one is willing to endure in ministry is often a great WITNESS and defense. Paul exemplified servanthood, DESPITE the costs. We follow Paul's EXAMPLE and serve!

4. The PATIENCE

Qualities we should all try to EMULATE in our own lives and ministries for the Lord as we serve: purity, understanding, patience, kindness, sincere love, truthful speech and God - given righteousness.

For many of us, the most CHALLENGING is patience.

5. The PARADOX

Paul describes two different viewpoints of him and his ministry. How can one person be both? They cannot. The difference was not in Paul, but in how OTHERS saw him. The same is true of anyone in ministry.

What ultimately matters is how the LORD sees us!

6. The PARENT

Like any parent should, Paul speaks FREELY to the church and his fellow Christians. His heart is open to them, despite some of the AWFUL things they have said about him.

7. The PROHIBITION

Is every Christian to avoid ANYTHING to do with every non-Christian? If that were the case, who would we WITNESS to? That CANNOT be the answer.

II. The SEPARATED Life

1. The RESTRICTION

A yoke is the wooden beam and leather straps that link, or yoke, a pair of animals together, so that they can accomplish MORE work. Of course, Paul is addressing humans, not animals.

The most common application for Christians is in the union of MARRIAGE, and it certainly makes sense. What stronger life-link exists than marriage? And what can cause more problems in marriage than having two very different WORLD VIEWS? Should a Christian marry a non-Christian? In my opinion, NO.

I've been saddened hearing of unequally yoked couples who have gone ahead and married, only to have the marriage fall apart because of "IRRECONCILABLE differences." That is what Paul is talking about!

2. The REASONS

For the Christian, there is no RELATIONSHIP with Satan, no AGREEMENT between light and darkness, no COMPLIMENT between God's temple and false idols.

3. The REWARDS

God's promise is to act as a FATHER to us and to treat us as his children. Receiving Jesus into your life GUARANTEES you a perfect, loving father for the rest of your eternal life! He will live with us and walk with us and be our God.

The question this morning is: "What kind of life will YOU choose?"