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God's Truth About Alliances (Part 2)

545-B

Series: The Beatitudes



In the last lesson, you will recall, we talked about the fact that Christians are called to live in the world, to minister to the world, yet without conforming to the world or becoming part of the world. The balance between these two goals has been a difficult one for the church to achieve throughout the generations. Churches and denominations have come and gone, because they have drifted to extremes in these areas. Destroying balance is a choice tactic in Satan's bag of tricks.

One group sees the need to remain separate from the world. This group becomes inbred and loses its heart for evangelism. It drifts into extreme doctrines and becomes condescending and critical towards others, even those in the body of Christ who have a slightly different stance. Its gospel becomes self-serving until it strangles slowly on its inbred spirit of separatism. Satan loves it.

On the other hand, there are the others who see this and are offended by the exclusivism and the absence of outreach. They then begin to reach out to other groups, but they mistake cooperation and ministry for alliance and yoking. They compromise the basic doctrines to make their message more palatable to more people. They adopt the ways of the world and the organizations of the world, until they gradually conform to the world to attract the money of the world in order to reach the world. They, then, no longer can be seen by the world as salt and light. Satan loves it.

In between those two extremes lies God's desire for His church. As Jesus prayed to the Father,

I am not asking You Father to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from Satan's power.

They are not part of the world anymore than I am.

Make them pure and holy through the teachings of Your words of truth. (John 17:15-17 TLB)

While Satan has attracted God's people from one end of the spectrum to the other, I believe, today, we are not in as much danger of becoming exclusive and separated as a church. Instead

the church, by and large, has fallen victim to Satan's lies about alliances. I believe that the Christian community needs to be awakened to the reality that we cannot whip them by joining them. For God's people to achieve God's purposes, we must not compromise God's principles of separation.

We need to remember that there are three categories of relationships. Understanding these three categories will help us not to misuse the concept of unequal yoking.

- 1- The peer relationship such as employees who work together, or citizens who live in the same country, or those who are members of the same organization. This also refers to neighbors who live on the same street.
- 2- The authority relationship. These relationships include a boss over an employee, the government over the citizen, and a parent over the child. God becomes responsible for the actions and the authority as the Christian becomes responsible for his response to that authority.
- 3- The alliance relationship. This happens when two or more people by an act of their will join together in union to share a common responsibility and authority. Marriage, dating, business partnerships, treaties between two nations and church alliances are called alliance relationships. They have to have common objectives. They assume harmony. They must have mutual commitment and a common bond.

In the last lesson we also discussed that Christians don't fair too well in alliance relationships with non-Christians. We asked, "Why?"

Because greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. (I John 4:4 paraphrased)

We answered it with these two illustrations:

- 1- The Christian is filled with power when he is in the will of God, but when he becomes unequally yoked together with a non-Christian he leaves the will of God and thus leaves the sphere of power that God gave him to allow him to have victory over the enemy.
- 2- This illustration is even more easily understood. The Christian has two magnets pulling at him. One is from the Word, and one is from the world. The unbeliever, meanwhile, only has one magnet drawing him toward the world. Now it doesn't take

very much arithmetic or very much of an understanding of the law of gravity to figure out that if you take person A and join them to person B which pull will be the stronger. So for these two reasons, Christians basically do not normally fair too well, contrary to Satan's lies, in relationships of alliance with unbelievers.

Principle 1- God is a jealous god where relationships are concerned.

In the last lesson, we began by examining the basic principles in Scripture concerning alliances or yoking. We covered two. We looked at Exodus 34 and realized in the context of that passage that Israel was violating the Word of God by allowing unbelievers to become friends, then have fellowship and then intermarry. Because of this, God's men unconsciously began to walk the ways of the world and worship the gods of the world. But God is a jealous god. He is not the kind of jealous God that does not want what is best for you and wants to keep you for Himself. He is the kind of jealous God whose goal, because He loves you so much, is to be jealous over your welfare.

Principle 2- Our God, being jealous for our welfare, demands that we make no alliances with the enemy, that is unbelievers.

This principle, we notice, goes one step further. In the last lesson, we looked at three passages of which there are many. In Deuteronomy 7 the commandment was very clear to make no treaties or compromises with the enemy. In Amos 3:3 the question was asked, "How can two walk together, except they be agreed?" The answer we found in I Corinthians 6:17-21 was that they can't. Paul said that two can't walk together without being agreed anymore than you can merge darkness with light, or anymore than you can unite lawlessness with righteousness, or anymore than you can place idols in the temple of God and not affect the program of God, or anymore than you can take and marry Satan to Christ. You can't do it, and you are commanded not to do it. This is where we left off in the last lesson. We need to continue with the third principle which naturally follows.

Principle 3- God clearly defines the consequences of unequal yoking.

We need to listen carefully because I believe that the Scripture is very clear. If you have a child who wants to date or marry an unbeliever, this relates to you. If you are tempted to go into

a business partnership with an unbeliever, this relates to you. If you want to better understand the principles of our national alliances and why they fail, this relates to that situation. Let's listen to the consequences that God says will happen. I am going to give you a project at the end of this lesson to do on your own. Let's look at Joshua 23. This is Joshua's farewell address to the nation of Israel. He is about to die, and he says this,

Therefore be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left,

and lest you go among these nations, these who remain among you. You shall not make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause anyone to swear by them; you shall not serve them nor bow down to them,

but you shall hold fast to the Lord your God, as you have done to this day.

For the Lord has driven out from before you great and strong nations; but as for you, no one has been able to stand against you to this day.

One man of you shall chase a thousand, for the Lord your God is He who fights for you, as He promised you.

Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the Lord your God.Or else, if indeed you do go back, and cling to the remnant of these nations—these that remain among you—and make marriages with them, and go in to them and they to you,

know for certain that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you. But they shall be snares and traps to you, and scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land which the Lord your God has given you. (Joshua 23:6-13 NKJV)

Consequence 1- Unholy alliances affect your spiritual growth.

a) They will bring many troubles. Joshua told the people that the choice was theirs to make. They either don't yoke themselves to the enemy and thus no man or nations would be able to stand against them, or they join in an alliance with the enemy and compromise having many troubles beset them. They would be a snare and a trap. Have you ever been walking in the woods enjoying the sunshine and the nature, when all of a sudden you look down and realize that your leg was caught in a trap? You didn't have the slightest idea that there was a trap there, but a

snare grabbed you, and it affected your walk considerably. This is what will happen when you align yourself to an unbeliever. It will be a snare and a trap.

b) They will be a pain in your side. Have you ever been driving along and all of a sudden there was a pain in your back or side as if somebody had stabbed you from the back seat? The whole idea is that this pain was so excruciating that it made you bend over. It permeated your thoughts, the sun stopped shining as far as you were concerned, and nothing else mattered.

c) Alliance with the enemy would be like a thorn in your eye. How many of you have been shampooing your hair and it runs down into your eye. It begins to burn, and you can't see anymore? Or have you ever been standing outside and the dust blows into your eye, and you can't see anymore? It affects your vision. It hurts. You lose perspective. You forget about everything. Joshua said this is what will happen when you join in an alliance with the enemy. It will affect your walk. It will affect your joy. It will affect your vision. It will be like a snare or a pain or a thorn in your eye.

I don't know how many of you have experienced this, but I can share with you about the lives of young people in particular who have violated this principle and ended up in disaster. I know of Christian girls or boys who have dated a non-Christian only to get involved and perhaps even married only to see grief after grief after grief. They understand what this verse is saying. All of a sudden they realize it is a trap. All of a sudden they realize they don't have the walk with God they had before. There is a kind of pain that takes over and they realize they don't have the joy they had before. When this happens, they realize that they have lost their perspective and vision, because how can two walk together except they be agreed?

Consequence 2- Unequal yoking results in an absence of power over the enemy.

In Judges we see this,

When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.

Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals;

and they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who had

brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger.

They forsook the Lord and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies.

Wherever they went out, the hand of the Lord was against them for calamity, as the Lord had said, and as the Lord had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed.

(Judges 2:10-15 NKJV)

Their power was gone. Do you remember the illustration earlier? They were outside that realm of power. Because of their wrong relations, the enemy came and they thought nothing had changed so they pulled their swords and said, "Come after us, and we will defeat you." But something had happened. They had not chased the enemy from their camp. They had made alliances with them and joined ranks with them and their power was gone. I think many of us can relate to this and can understand experientially what that means.

Consequence 3- God's umbrella of protection over you will be affected. We see this in Numbers 33. We can relate this to the children of Israel and the plagues in Egypt. Plague after plague came, but the children of Israel were under an umbrella of protection from God. They experienced the problems, but the problems could not overtake them so long as they remained separate unto the Lord. This is a serious principle and has a lot of practical ramifications.

Consequence 4- Your children will be affected. There are many illustrations of this. Many of us could give personal illustrations. We see it in Scripture in Genesis 19 as we turn on the television sets in our minds. We see Lot in this program "As The World Turns". Lot had moved in with the world and no doubt wanted to be a witness to the world. But the world's witness engulfed him so that he could no longer see the reality of what was really happening. God sent a messenger to deliver Lot and his family. Lot told his family, "God is going to judge the nations, and we can get out." The Scripture tells us that he went to his children

and said, "Let's leave!" They laughed at him and thought he was kidding. They said, "These are our friends and our husbands." The parallel is so real.

Consequence 5- Real communication becomes impossible. The principle is an old principle that we find in I Corinthians 2:11-16. The natural mind does not receive the things of the spirit, and it can't because it is not spiritually discerning. The Living Bible gives the most beautiful explanation of that passage. It says that there is a transmitter, station W-O-R-D. It is transmitting truth. As we look at a neighborhood, in the first house lives Susie Smith. She has made the Calvary Connection. She has the little box that attaches to her television that unscrambles the signal. When truth is broadcast into her life, she can receive it. In the next house is Jimmy Jones. He has never received Christ as his Savior and thus has not received the Holy Spirit. He turns on his television set when truth is being broadcast, but he only gets a scrambled signal and becomes confused and frustrated.

The third house is where Susie Smith and Jimmy Jones live after they have gotten married. There we see them holding hands, joined together as one. They have an issue to be resolved where they need God's perspective. Susie has a receiver and Jimmy doesn't. The result is confusion, compromise and disharmony. There cannot be communication. These are some of the results of the consequences of unequal yoking.

Principle 4- When the multitude desires to do evil, the Christian is to stand alone. I wonder how clearly our children understand that principle at school? Exodus 23:1,2 is a very important portion of Scripture to read concerning this issue. I wonder if our children understand that Christianity is a minority rule. In the world you will not be among the majority when decisions are being made. You must learn to be gracious, never condescending, but be willing to stand alone. Do not think that your stance is wrong because the crowd doesn't understand. Teach your children the story of Joshua and Caleb. God honored the minority who believed rather than the majority who didn't.

Principle 5- The believer is not going to win a popularity contest with the world. In this age when we have misinterpreted and misused the basic principles of Scripture in this area, I believe that this is an unpopular thing to talk about. It is true that the unbelievers are not to hate your attitude and the way you live.

You are not to be a stumbling block. You are to be blameless and harmless. But, we are also to be spotless. In John 15:16-21 Jesus says,

You didn't choose me! I chose you! I appointed you to go and produce lovely fruit always, so that no matter what you asked for from the Father, using My name, He will give it to you.

I demand that you love each other,

for you get enough hate from the world! But then, it hated Me before it hated you.

The world would love you if you belonged to it; but you don't-for I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.

Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave is not greater than his master!' So since they persecuted Me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to Me, they would listen to you!

The people of the world will persecute you because you belong to Me, for they don't know God who sent Me.

(John 15:16-21 TLB)

Now I realize that we can really bend that out of shape if we are not careful, but oh the truth that is there that our children need to understand. The second passage that is important here is I Peter 4:3-6. It literally says, and what our children need to understand if they become Christians, is that their former friends will be offended the most. In this Scripture, it says that if you refuse to go to the places and do the things that you did before, they will not understand. They will be angry and offended. The Scripture says that we are to respond graciously and it is their problem. We must not compromise to keep from offending them.

Principle 6- The believer will become just like the one to whom he aligns himself. This is a familiar principle that we find in several verses paraphrased from the Living Bible,

Don't be misled, bad company (associations) corrupts good character (morals). (I Corinthians 15:33 NIV)

Be with wise men and become wise, Be with evil men and you will become evil. (Proverbs 13:20 TLB)

If you are looking for advice, stay away from fools.

(Proverbs 14:7 TLB)

Principle 7- A believer need not entertain the faith of an unbeliver in order to have the right to show them his. We see this

in Deuteronomy 12:29-32 where Scripture tells us that we don't need to go into the unbelievers temples to examine their idols in order to understand their motivations. You have met their god, and his name is Satan. That is all you need to know. Flee from him. This is a prevalent lie on Christian college campuses today. It is not true.

<u>Principle 8- God's enemies are to be our enemies.</u> In Psalm 139:19-24, we see this as just one of a number of passages that talks about this principle. This is a touchy area because of the difference between loving the sinner and hating the sin.

Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men.

For they speak against You wickedly; Your enemies take Your name in vain.

Do I not hate them, O Lord, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?

I hate them with perfect hatred;I count them my enemies.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties;

And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalms 139:19-24 NKJV)

We don't hate the sinner, but we do hate Satan in them. We love what they could become in Christ. This principle has been violated nationally, personally and spiritually.

<u>Principle 9- Even in the body of Christ we are to withdraw close fellowship from four groups of people.</u>

1- Those who are divisive- We see in the Living Bible,

And now there is one more thing to say before I end this letter. Stay away from those who cause divisions and are upsetting people's faith, teaching things about Christ that are contrary to what you have been taught.

Such teachers are not working for our Lord Jesus, but only want gain for themselves. They are good speakers and simple-minded people are often fooled by them.

(Romans 16:17,18 TLB)

In other words, don't line up with malcontents in the body of Christ.

2- Those who are not willing to repent of immorality- We see this in I Corinthians. In the Living Bible it says,

What a terrible thing it is that you are boasting about your purity and you let this sort of thing go on. Don't you realize that if even one person is allowed to go on sinning, soon all will be affected?

Remove this evil cancer-this wicked person-from among you, so that you can stay pure. Christ, God's Lamb, has been slain for us.

So let us feast upon Him and grow strong in the Christian life, leaving entirely behind us the cancerous old life with all its hatreds and wickedness. Let us feast instead upon the pure bread of honor and sincerity and truth.

When I wrote to you before I said not to mix with evil people.

But when I said that I wasn't talking about unbelievers who live in sexual sin, or are greedy cheats and thieves and idol worshipers. For you can't live in this world without being with people like that.

What I meant was that you are not to keep company with anyone who claims to be a brother Christian but indulges in sexual sins, or is greedy, or is a swindler, or worships idols, or is a drunkard or abusive. Don't even eat lunch with such a person.

It isn't our job to judge outsiders. But it certainly is our job to judge and deal strongly with those who are members of the church and who are sinning in these ways.

God alone is the Judge of those on the outside. But you yourselves must deal with this man and put him out of your church.

(I Corinthians 5:6-13 TLB)

- 3- Those who don't want to work and are lazy- These are those in the body of Christ who are given opportunity and don't want to work. Paul says to withdraw yourself from fellowship with them so that you can encourage them to understand that those who don't work shouldn't eat. We find this in II Thessalonians 3:6-10. Read this in both the King James and the Living Bible to get the picture.
- 4-Thosewhoareknowndeceivers-WeseethisinIITimothy3:1-5. These are those in the body of Christ with the wrong motivations.

Principle 10- Treaties with heathen nations are wrong. We see this in Exodus 23:32-33. I would like for you to read this passage on your own so that we can turn to II Chronicles 20 together. I don't think this is a popular concept today. Let's look at it from the Living Bible.

But at the close of his life, Jehosophat, king of Judah, went into partnership with Ahaziah, king of Israel, who was a very wicked man.

They made ships in Ezion-geber to sail to Tarshish.

Then Eliezer, son of Dodavahu from Mareshah, prophesied against Jehoshaphat, telling him, "Because you have allied yourself with King Ahaziah, the Lord has destroyed your work." So the ships met disaster and never arrived at Tarshish. (II Chronicles 20:35-37 TLB)

You can read Exodus 34:12, Exodus 23:32 and Judges 3:1-12 to find the same principle. Treaties with heathen nations will not work.

<u>Principle 11- Seeking aid from heathen nations is never God's plan.</u> You can read Hosea 12:1 on your own. We see this principle also in Isaiah 31:1,2 which says this in the Living Bible,

Woe to those who run to Egypt for help, trusting their mighty cavalry and chariots instead of looking to the Holy One of Israel and consulting Him.

In His wisdom, He will send great evil on His people and will not change His mind. He will rise against them for the evil they have done and crush their allies too.

(Isaiah 31:1,2 TLB)

God's people don't need the world's methods, the world's men or the world's money. They need the God whose ways are higher than theirs. God's nations, if they are to honor God, don't need the world's armies, the world's energy or the world's intelligence. They need God who has never had a power shortage.

I think we need to understand this basic national principle. Although America is not a Christian nation, it is one nation under God. A nation under God that represents itself to be a mission sending nation to the world has nothing in common with the enemies of God: Russia, Red China, Cuba or Iran. Now you answer for me, how two nations of those persuasions can join together to find common objectives? One desires to exalt the principles of God, and one desires to destroy godly principles. How can they have common identity? How can they have common values? How can they even have communication? There is no basis for real communication for the enemy cannot speak the truth nor even understand the truth, so the basis for a mutual treaty between the two, scripturally, is zero. Satan's desire is to make us forget who the enemy is and to believe that the enemy really wants the same things we do. Peace. Not true.

If we are then to arm ourselves or not to join forces with God's enemies for our security, what then will be God's program for national security? I am going to give eight points. Some of you may not agree with me. What I have done is to take God's instructions to Israel, nationally, and the church's instructions spiritually, where spiritual warfare is concerned. The Spiritual Switch works both ways. We are going to try to find these eight principles that a nation like America can use in building national security and purpose.

- 1- You are to protect yourself. Satan's goal is to get the people of God to disarm spiritually and militarily. "We are all friends," Satan says, "we all want the same thing. We all want peace." In Ephesians 6:11-13, this is why we are told to put on the whole armor of God so that we might be able to stand against the enemy's attack. The same principle applies to the child of God and the nations of God as we are to be armed for the battle of God. I would like to suggest that sometime you do a study on Ephesians 6. Take the pieces of armor and study them with national purposes in mind. You will be amazed.
- 2- Acquaint yourself with the tactics of the enemy. We are told to do this spiritually. Ephesians 6:11 says we are to do this so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. This is talking about the tactics he has devised to destroy you. We see this in I Peter 5:8 that like a roaring lion, Satan is prowling about seeking those he may devour. The whole problem is that the tactics of the enemy need to be understood.

Spying, for instance, is not an unscriptural principle. If it were, then Joshua and Caleb's actions would be unscriptural. Granting asylum for protecting spies is not a new principle, or else Rahab would never have been granted asylum. The whole principle is that Satan says, "That is not nice." But you see, he is spying night and day on the children of men. We read this in Job and in I Peter. There is nothing wrong with having an intelligence program spiritually or nationally.

<u>3- Remember who the real enemy is.</u> Ephesians 6 goes on to say,

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12 NKJV)

America's enemy is not Russia. America's enemy is not China. It is the godless ideology that they want to spread to the world. If they want peace, it is because they need our friendship at this time in history in order to lull us to sleep so that they can ultimately destroy us. That is their stated goal. That is Satan's plan personally. That is Satan's plan spiritually. That is Satan's plan nationally.

There is a conflict in this world. It is a deep, cosmic conflict between God and Satan. It is between God's forces and the forces of evil. He has always used the nations as a magnifying glass to bring to light this conflict. What Satan wants to do nationally and personally and spiritually is to lull us into believing that we don't have an enemy and that we are all friends. But, the man who denies the existence of Jehovah God and the nation that says that Jesus Christ is not God is not our friend.

- 4- Be prepared to take a stand. Ephesians 6:11-14 goes on to say, Stand therefore, and having done all, stand. I Peter 5:9 says the same thing. The Christian is given no offensive weapon to start the fight, but he has been given everything he will need to finish it. The Christian is to stand. We need to think about this. Why, as a nation, are we in the situation we are in today? We are to stand and not to give an inch. The opposite is called retreat. We are to stand. We are not to take the offensive, but when the enemy approaches, we are to stand and wield the defensive tools God has given us spiritually and nationally.
- 5- Defend yourself in order to protect what you stand for, or you stand to lose what you stand for. Ephesians 6:14-17 tells us why we are given the sword of the spirit which is the Word of God.
- 6- The goal of warfare is victory, spiritually and nationally. In Matthew 4 Jesus stayed and was tempted in the wilderness. He underwent the onslaught of the enemy until the enemy gave up and crawled off into the sunset until the battle was over. In James 4:7 it says, Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Wars were meant to be won scripturally or else the loss of life would not be worth it. So spiritual war was meant to be won or the loss of the life of the Son of God would not be worth it.

Ask yourself this question, How could tiny, little Israel be the most feared nation in the universe today? Why is that little bitty nation feared by everyone around them in the Middle East? Why does the whole world stand up and shake when Israel moves? I

believe it is because they use the principles of Scripture where warfare is concerned. At least they have in the past. Examine the brief military history of Israel since the Jews have been back in the land. You will be amazed. The whole world is afraid of them, because they utilize the principles of God in warfare.

7- Know who your friends are. Stand by them and expect them to stand by you. Ecclesiastes 4:8,9 says,

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. (This is the principle of allies.)

For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.

(Ecclesiastes 4:9,10 NKJV)

8- Stand by Israel because God plans to. Psalm 122:6 says,

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May all who love this city prosper. (Psalm 122:6 TLB)

The Scripture is filled with promises to nations who stand by Israel. Read your Bible. Read the history books. Make a list on two sheets of paper reflecting what has happened to the nations who have befriended the Jews and the nations who have beheaded the Jews. You can throw away the second piece of paper, because they are gone. This nation under God must stand by Israel.

Satan says, "Trust me. We are all in this together." But you can't trust Russia. You can't trust Red China. You can't trust Cuba. You can't trust Iran. We can't trust these nations anymore than we can trust their god whose name is Satan.

Practically speaking, how can two nations walk together except they be agreed? What basis for unity does righteousness have with unrighteousness? What chance does the United Nations ever have to solve the problems of the world? How can the friends of God and the enemies of God join together to protect each other? The enemies of God are our enemies, and as enemies we must not align ourselves with them.

In the next lesson, we will deal with the nine ways to help children make right friendships. We will have nine questions to ask yourself about your child's dates. What is God's purpose for dating? Can a Christian evangelize a non-Christian in a dating relationship? What are Satan's real spiritual lies where unequal yoking is concerned? I also hope to give you a quiz to take home to do during the week concerning the lies that Satan tells.

Meanwhile, these are the principles and the issues concerning unequal yoking.

For Further Study and Application

I want to give you one project to do this week. As you read the newspaper and watch the television news broadcasts, take your Bible and a notebook to write down where God's people personally or the church corporately or where America nationally has violated these principles. Then write down the consequences experientially regarding what has resulted from those violations. See if that lines up with what God said the consequences would be when God's people yoke themselves or align themselves together with unbelievers.

Unequal yoking doesn't work. That is God's truth about alliances.

Note: Russell wrote each of these lessons in a manner that would enable him to clearly communicate them to his weekly class. The grammar or punctuation you encounter may not be technically perfect, but you will certainly "hear" his unique gift for making the message applicable to the common man in everyday situations.

It's been said of him that he was really a writer who read his stuff. And that's a very accurate statement!

May you be richly blessed as you "hear" as you read.

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