

## Christian Commonality

\* The world defines others based on multiple factors such as race, gender, location, financial status, likes, dislikes... While Christians **SHOULD** only define based on one, either **Believer** or **Unbeliever**.

**We are defined by Christ ONLY** - Gal 3:26-29 - 26 **You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus**, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 **If you belong to Christ**, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

**Let's take a close look at God's requirements for Christian partnering**- 2 Cor 6:14-16 - 14 **DO NOT BE YOKED TOGETHER** with unbelievers. For what do RIGHTEOUSNESS and WICKEDNESS have in common? Or what fellowship can LIGHT have with DARKNESS? 15 What harmony is there between CHRIST and BELIAL? what does a **BELIEVER** have in common with an **UNBELIEVER**? 16 What agreement is there between the TEMPLE OF GOD and IDOLS? For **WE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD**. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

**The difference between believers & unbelievers is most significantly Spiritual verses irrelevant flesh** - John 6:63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

**The relationship with believers and unbelievers must be different due to the difference in life focuses**

**Christians follow the ONLY way and ONLY answer** - John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am **THE way** and **THE truth** and **THE life**. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**Unbelievers focus and answers are of the world** - 1 John 4:4-6 - 4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the **viewpoint of the world**, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

**Christians recognize that ALL issues we deal with are Spiritual** - Eph 6:12 For **OUR STRUGGLE IS NOT** against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

**Unbelievers are guided by human wisdom (which is not wisdom at all) while Christian wisdom is Spiritual and can only be Spiritually understood** -1 Cor 2:13-14 - 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. 14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and **HE CANNOT** understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

**In order to keep the two relationships in check, Christians must follow God's guidance:**

**Christians must recognize the importance of connecting and staying connected with other Christians**

**We must TOGETHER grow in Faith and knowledge of Christ** - Eph 4:11-13 - 11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 **TO PREPARE GOD'S PEOPLE** for works of service, so that **THE BODY** of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach UNITY in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

**There must be NO DIVISION but equal concern** - 1 Cor 12:25-26 - 25 so that **THERE SHOULD BE NO DIVISION IN THE BODY**, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

**Christians must be VERY CAREFUL with their relationship with unbelievers** - 1 Cor 15:33 **DO NOT BE MISLED**: "Bad company CORRUPTS good character."

**That corruption will stunt our Spiritual growth** - 1 Cor 3:1-4 - Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly — mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 **YOU ARE STILL WORLDLY**. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? 4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not **MERE MEN?**

**Christians have to be careful in directly giving God's precious Word to unbelievers** - Matt 7:6 "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces."

**Christians must minister to unbelievers as God guides and allow God to work** -1 Cor 3:5-9 - 5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe — as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 **I PLANTED THE SEED, APOLLOS WATERED IT**, but **GOD MADE IT GROW**. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but **ONLY GOD, WHO MAKES THINGS GROW**. 8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.