

2 Corinthians 6:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

Analysis

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? (τίς δὲ συμφώνησις Χριστῷ πρὸς Βελίᾱρ; tis de symphōnēsis Christō pros Beliar?)—Symphōnēsis means harmony, agreement, or concord (root of 'symphony'). Beliar (Hebrew בְּלִיָּא, beliya'al, 'worthlessness' or 'wickedness') appears in the Old Testament for wicked or lawless people (Deut 13:13; Judg 19:22; 1 Sam 2:12). By New Testament times it became a name for Satan or demonic powers. Paul personifies ultimate spiritual antithesis: Christ versus Satan. The answer: zero concord, absolute incompatibility.

Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? (ἢ τίς μερίς πιστῷ μετὰ ἀπίστου; ē tis meris pistō meta apistou?)—Meris means share, portion, or part—what they have in common or can share together. Pistos (believer, faithful one) versus apistos (unbeliever, unfaithful one) represents the fundamental divide of humanity: those who trust Christ and those who don't. In ultimate spiritual realities, they have no common ground, no shared inheritance, no mutual spiritual life.

Paul escalates from abstract concepts (righteousness/unrighteousness, light/darkness) to personal embodiments (Christ/Satan, believer/unbeliever). This isn't merely philosophical incompatibility but personal, relational impossibility. Attempting to unite opposites doesn't create synthesis but compromise—the holy is polluted, not the profane sanctified, when wrongly mixed.

Historical Context

Belial appears in Jewish apocalyptic literature (Dead Sea Scrolls, Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs) as a leader of demonic forces opposing God. Paul uses this familiar Jewish concept to express absolute spiritual antithesis. The Corinthians' tolerance of pagan entanglements amounted to attempting harmony between Christ and Satan—spiritual adultery against their covenant Lord.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that unequal yoking attempts 'concord between Christ and Belial' help you see the spiritual stakes of compromising partnerships?
2. In what areas of life might you be trying to maintain 'fellowship' between your faith and practices fundamentally opposed to Christ?
3. How does the believer/unbeliever distinction affect your closest relationships, especially regarding marriage, business, or ministry partnerships?

Interlinear Text

τίς	δὲ	συμφώνησις	Χριστῷ	πρὸς	Βελιάρ	ἢ	τίς
what	And	concord	hath Christ	with	Belial	or	what
G5101	G1161	G4857	G5547	G4314	G955	G2228	G5101
μερίς	πιστῷ	μετὰ	ἀπίστου				
part	hath he that believeth	with	an infidel				
G3310	G4103	G3326	G571				

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 18:21 (Parallel theme): And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

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