

Psalms 26:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers.

Analysis

The declaration 'I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers' expresses moral separation. 'Vain persons' (empty, worthless people) and 'dissemblers' (hypocrites) represent ungodly influence. This reflects Psalm 1:1—blessing comes through avoiding ungodly counsel. Reformed theology emphasizes antithesis: believers must separate from worldly values while engaging the world evangelistically. Separation is moral/spiritual, not physical withdrawal. Holy living requires careful choice of companions and influences.

Historical Context

Covenant faithfulness required Israel to separate from pagan practices while dwelling among nations. This tension between engagement and separation characterized biblical ethics. The psalmist's protestation of innocence claims covenant loyalty, not sinless perfection.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What 'vain persons' and 'dissemblers' do you need to avoid in your relationships?
2. How do you balance holy separation with gospel engagement of unbelievers?

Interlinear Text

לֹא יֹשְׁבֵתִי עִם מְתֵי שָׁוְא וְעִם בְּעֲלֵמִים
H3808 I have not sat H3427 H5973 persons H4962 with vain H7723 H5973 with dissemblers H5956 H3808

אֲבֹא:
neither will I go in
H935

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 1:1 (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Jeremiah 15:17 (Parallel theme): I sat not in the assembly of the mockers, nor rejoiced; I sat alone because of thy hand: for thou hast filled me with indignation.

Psalms 119:115 (Parallel theme): Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God.

Proverbs 13:20 (Parallel theme): He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

Psalms 119:63 (Parallel theme): I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.

Proverbs 9:6 (Parallel theme): Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

Proverbs 12:11 (Parallel theme): He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.

1 Corinthians 15:33 (Parallel theme): Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

2 Corinthians 6:17 (Parallel theme): Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

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