



Danger of Partnership With Evil Doers

"If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed" (2 John 1:10).

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"For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (2 John 1:11).

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds. 12 Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full. 13 The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen" (2 John 1:9-13).

God created us not as solitary but social animals for fellowship, companionship, co-operation and unity. It is often said that birds of a feather flock together. When birds fly in a formation, they can conserve up to 70% of their energy. Nothing becomes impossible to people when they are united in their effort. Note God's statement in Genesis 11:6 "And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do". Note also the potentials of united effort in the following scriptures:

- 1) "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour" (Ecclesiastes 4:9)
- 2) "And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword" (Leviticus 26:8).
- 3) "How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?" (Deuteronomy 32:30). [Note the source of the synergy].

All these points to the fact that the quality of lives and achievements increases as these characteristics are prevalent in lives. However, there are dangers to watch out for. When people unite for good, good prospers. When they unite for evil, evil prospers. And when good and evil come together they neutralise the good just like positive and negative charges neutralises. So although unity produces synergy that increases output it only works in rela-

tion to singularity of goals, purpose and unity. When these are contrary, they work against one another and become counter productive. Note the following scriptures:

- 1) "... Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth" (Luke 11:17).
- 2) "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matthew 12:30).
- 3) "Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty..." (Hosea 10:2).
- 4) "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).
- 5) "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14)
- 6) "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners" (1 Corinthians 15:33).
- 7) "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed" (Proverbs 13:20).

In addition to the damaging effects of evil association, our text also points out that a person can easily become an accomplice in crime through such association. When a person partners with a criminal, he becomes a criminal himself. God's warning in Exodus 23:2 still applies till today - "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment". It is to our good to heed Paul's admonition to Timothy "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure" (1 Timothy 5:22).

This calls for prudent judgement, incisive decision and courage to take a stand for good; and not allow the sentiments and affections of human relationships to lead us astray.