



common ground for a relationship and fellowship is based on their union to Christ. Believers and unbelievers have no such common ground; therefore believers should not 'join forces' with unbelievers in living, religious and spiritual matters. There needs to be a practical and formal separation...boundaries; separation, not isolation!

**“with them”**—(*autwn*) “The pronoun *autwn* is a genitive of association referring not to sins but to the persons ('sons of disobedience') mentioned in verses 3-6 who are objects of God's wrath” (Hoehner)

### **Scriptural Boundaries: Separation, Not Isolation!**

“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked; nor stand in the path of sinners; nor sit in the seat of scoffers” (Psalm 1:1)

“He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm” (Proverbs 13:20)

“It is better to live in a desert land, than with a contentious and vexing woman” (Proverbs 21:19)

“The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, but the naïve go on and are punished for it” (Proverbs 22:3)

“Drive out the scoffer, and contention will go out, even strife and dishonor will cease” (Proverbs 22:10)

“Do not associate with a person given to anger; or with a hot-tempered man, lest you learn his ways, and find a snare for yourself” (Proverbs 22:24)

“Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words” (Proverbs 23:9)

“Do not be with heavy drinkers...for the heavy drinker...will come to poverty and drowsiness will clothe a man with rags” (Proverbs 23:20-21)

“Do not be envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them; for their minds devise violence, and their lips talk of trouble” (Proverbs 24:1-2)

“Do not associate with those who are given to rebellion; for their calamity will rise suddenly” (Proverbs 24:21-22)

“a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth” (Proverbs 29:3)

“He who is a partner with a thief hates his own life” (Proverbs 29:24)

“A little leaven leavens the whole lump. Clean out the old leaven...do not associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one” (1 Corinthians 5:6-7, 11)

“Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, ‘I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. THEREFORE, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE.’ says the Lord. ‘AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; and I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me,’ says the Lord Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

“Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15)