

Dr. J. Ayodeji Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 7, 2 Corinthians 6 – Christian Relationships Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 7, 2 Corinthians 6 – Christian Relationships, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Adewuya's session on 2 Corinthians chapter 6 focuses on Paul's defense of his apostolic integrity and the importance of Christian relationships. The lecture highlights Paul's conduct and experiences as an ambassador of Christ, emphasizing his cooperation with God in ministry. **Adewuya explains that Paul's call for reconciliation extends not only to God but also to fellow believers, including himself as their apostle.** He underscores the necessity of aligning one's life with the gospel and avoiding actions that could discredit the ministry. **The session also explores Paul's description of his hardships and virtues as a servant of God, contrasting the detractors' expectations of apostleship with Paul's lived reality of suffering.** Finally, Adewuya addresses the complex passage on being unequally yoked with unbelievers, contextualizing it within Old Testament themes of holiness and the believer's identity as the temple of God, urging a distinct way of life that reflects this sacred status.

2. 25 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 7 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Pauline Epistles → 2 Corinthians).



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3. Briefing Document: Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 7, 2 Corinthians 6 – Christian Relationships

Briefing Document: Dr. Ayo Adewuya on 2 Corinthians 6 - Christian Relationships

Overview: This briefing document summarizes the main themes and important ideas presented by Dr. Ayo Adewuya in his seventh session on 2 Corinthians, focusing on Chapter 6 and Christian relationships. Dr. Adewuya delves into Paul's continued defense of his apostleship, the urgency of accepting God's grace, the necessity of reconciliation both with God and fellow believers, the importance of a minister's integrity aligning with the gospel, and the implications of believers being the temple of the living God.

Main Themes and Important Ideas:

1. Paul's Continued Defense of his Apostleship:

- Dr. Adewuya highlights that in 2 Corinthians 6:1-10, Paul continues to defend his integrity as an apostle through a description of his conduct and experiences as Christ's ambassador.
- Paul's opening statement in verses 1-2, often used in evangelism ("See, now is the acceptable time; see now is the day of salvation"), is contextually part of his defense of his ministry, demonstrating the urgency of responding to the "new order of salvation and Christ" (referring back to Chapter 5).
- Paul emphasizes his role as a "co-worker with God" ("As we work together with him..."), highlighting the collaborative nature of his ministry.
- He urges the Corinthians not to "accept the grace of God in vain," explaining that this grace summarizes the gospel of salvation and has implications for their relationship with him as their apostle.

2. The Necessity of Reconciliation – Vertical and Lateral:

- Dr. Adewuya stresses that reconciliation, as discussed by Paul in Chapter 6, is not limited to a believer's relationship with God. Paul is also calling for reconciliation between himself and the Corinthians, given their estrangement.
- He draws a parallel with holiness, arguing that one cannot be right with God while being unright with fellow believers: "just like you cannot have holy adulterers, you cannot have solitary Christians."

- The Christian life is meant to be lived within a community, and reconciliation with God necessitates a "corresponding reconciliation with our fellow Christians."
- Failure to reconcile with God's messenger (Paul in this context) is equated with "receiving the grace of God in vain."

3. The Urgency of the Present – "Now is the Acceptable Time":

- Dr. Adewuya explains that Paul's use of Isaiah 49:8 ("At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you") through the Jewish interpretative method of Peshar applies the prophecy to his contemporary situation.
- The double "Behold now" emphasizes that God's final salvation action is taking place in the present. The "last days" have arrived with the coming of Christ.
- Paul's preaching of the gospel era creates a "crisis moment in salvation history" demanding a response.

4. The Importance of a Minister's Integrity and Conduct:

- Paul emphasizes putting "no obstacle in anyone's way so that no fault may be found with our ministry." His conduct must conform to the gospel he proclaims.
- Dr. Adewuya points out the "credibility gap in Christianity today" where belief and behavior often diverge, contrasting this with Paul's understanding that his life reflects his gospel.
- He uses the anecdote of the boy in the barber's shop to illustrate the importance of practicing what we preach: "I wanted to see my father in the barber's shop."
- Our lives either "comment on or discount the message that we seek to share with the world."
- Blameworthy conduct brings reproach to Christ. Christian leaders have a great responsibility to serve as positive influences.

5. Demonstrations of Apostolic Genuineness Through Suffering and Virtue:

- Paul lists numerous hardships he has endured ("great endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in calamities, in beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger") as demonstrations of his genuine apostleship, countering the idea that apostolic appointment means only success and preeminence.

- Dr. Adewuya categorizes these hardships as external (inflicted by others) and voluntary (imposed upon himself for the sake of the ministry).
- Following the list of hardships, Paul presents eight spiritual characteristics ("by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness or spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God") as the means by which God enabled him to endure.
- These characteristics resonate with the "fruit of the Spirit" in Galatians 5, highlighting the holistic nature of spiritual life.
- Paul also describes his ministry through paradoxes ("in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute...as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing, as poor, yet making many rich"), illustrating the realities of serving God.

6. Paul's Open Heart and Appeal for Reciprocity:

- Paul expresses his deep affection for the Corinthians: "We have spoken frankly to you, Corinthians. Our hearts are wide; our heart is wide open to you."
- He senses a restriction in their affections towards him and urges them to "open your hearts wide to us also."

7. The Command Not to Be Unequally Yoked with Unbelievers:

- Dr. Adewuya addresses the debated section of 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1, noting that some scholars consider it an interpolation due to vocabulary and its apparent placement in the letter.
- However, he argues that the burden of proof is on those who claim interpolation and asserts its importance for understanding holiness in Paul's letters.
- Paul's language of "be not unequally yoked together" is directly linked to the Holiness Code in Leviticus 19, particularly the prohibition against mixing different kinds of cattle, seeds, or materials. The Greek word used in 2 Corinthians 6:14 in the Septuagint is the same as in Leviticus 19.
- This command emphasizes the fundamental differences between believers ("righteousness," "light," "Christ," "temple of God") and unbelievers ("lawlessness," "darkness," "Belial," "idols").
- Dr. Adewuya clarifies that "separation is not segregation, and separation is not isolation." Believers are a "contra society" with different values and belief systems.

- While often applied to marriage and business, the primary focus of this passage is on knowing our identity as believers.

8. Believers as the Temple of the Living God:

- Paul states, "For we are the temple of the living God," using the plural "we," referring to the collective body of believers. He uses the Greek word "Naos," referring to the inner sanctuary, the Holy of Holies, signifying the presence of God.
- What makes the church the temple of God is the presence of God, not just programs or the size of the building.
- This identity as God's temple has significant implications: pastors and members must treat the church with care, avoiding division and impurity.
- Paul quotes Leviticus and Isaiah to emphasize God's promise to dwell in and walk among His people, urging them to "come out from among them and be separate" from what is unclean.
- God promises to receive those who divest themselves of unequal yokes, to be their Father, and to consider them His sons and daughters. This doesn't necessarily mean loss of salvation but can rob believers of the awareness of their relationship with God and its blessings.

Concluding Questions for Reflection:

- In what ways can I receive the grace of God in vain?
- How important is integrity in the minister's life?
- What is holiness? In what ways does it manifest in the believer's life?
- In what ways can I become unequally yoked in life and ministry?
- How does the understanding of believers as the temple of God impact my daily life?

Key Quote:

- "just like you cannot have holy adulterers, you cannot have solitary Christians."
- "We don't make the gospel to fit our lives. We make our lives fit the gospel."
- "Your actions speak so loud that I cannot hear your voice."
- "Separation is not segregation, and separation is not isolation."
- "What makes a church a cathedral is that it is where the bishop's seat is. What makes the church the temple of God is the presence of God."

This briefing document provides a comprehensive overview of Dr. Adewuya's teaching on 2 Corinthians 6, emphasizing the intertwined nature of Paul's defense, the call to holistic reconciliation, the significance of the present, the necessity of integrity, and the profound implications of believers being the temple of the living God.

4. Study Guide: Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 7, 2 Corinthians 6 – Christian Relationships

2 Corinthians 6 Study Guide: Christian Relationships

Quiz

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. According to Paul in 2 Corinthians 6:1-2, what is the significance of "now" in the context of the grace of God?
2. Explain the dual aspect of reconciliation that Paul addresses in 2 Corinthians 6:1-10.
3. What does Paul mean when he states in 2 Corinthians 6:3 that they put "no obstacle in anyone's way"?
4. Describe the paradoxical nature of Paul's apostolic life as presented in 2 Corinthians 6:8-10. Provide one example of this paradox.
5. According to the lecture, what might the "Corinthian detractors" have expected of an apostle?
6. What are some of the hardships endured by Paul, as listed in 2 Corinthians 6:4-5, that demonstrated the genuineness of his apostleship? Provide two examples.
7. Identify two of the "spiritual characteristics" mentioned in 2 Corinthians 6:6-7 that enabled Paul to endure his ministry.
8. Explain the significance of Paul referring to believers as the "temple of the living God" in 2 Corinthians 6:16.
9. Based on the lecture, what is the primary meaning of Paul's admonition in 2 Corinthians 6:14 to "not be mismatched with unbelievers"?
10. What promise does God make to those who separate themselves from unequal yokes, according to the lecture's interpretation of 2 Corinthians 6:17-18?

Quiz Answer Key

1. In 2 Corinthians 6:1-2, "now" signifies the acceptable time and the day of salvation. While often used in evangelism to emphasize the urgency of accepting Christ, Paul initially uses it in the context of his apostleship, highlighting that God's final saving work is taking place in the present through his ministry.

2. Paul addresses both vertical reconciliation with God and lateral reconciliation with fellow believers, including himself as their apostle. He argues that a right relationship with God necessitates and demands a corresponding right relationship with others in the Christian community.
3. By putting "no obstacle in anyone's way," Paul means that his conduct and the conduct of his associates were consistent with the gospel they proclaimed. There was no gap between their beliefs and behaviors, ensuring that their lives did not discredit the message of Christ.
4. Paul describes his life through paradoxes like being treated as imposters yet being true, or being sorrowful yet always rejoicing. These contrasting experiences demonstrate the nature of his ministry and the power of God working through his weaknesses.
5. The Corinthian detractors apparently expected an apostle to exhibit success and preeminence, viewing the honor of an apostolic appointment by God as synonymous with worldly acclaim and comfort, unlike Paul's experience of suffering.
6. Paul endured hardships such as afflictions inflicted by others (beatings, imprisonments, riots) and voluntary sacrifices for the sake of the gospel (hard work, sleepless nights, hunger). These experiences served as demonstrations of his genuine commitment to his apostolic calling.
7. Two spiritual characteristics are purity (keeping his motives and behavior above board) and knowledge/understanding (of what God has done in Christ Jesus). These qualities, enabled by God's grace, helped him to persevere in his ministry.
8. Referring to believers as the "temple of the living God" emphasizes that the presence of God dwells within them collectively. This identity as God's temple has implications for how believers should live and treat one another, avoiding impurity and division.
9. The primary meaning is about believers recognizing their distinct identity as a people of God with different values, behaviors, and belief systems compared to unbelievers. While it can apply to marriage and business, it fundamentally addresses the need for believers to understand who they are in Christ.

10. God promises to receive those who divest themselves of unequal yokes, to be a father to them, and to consider them his own sons and daughters. This highlights a deeper awareness of their relationship with God and the blessings that come with it.

Essay Format Questions

1. Analyze the connection Paul draws between his conduct as an apostle and the effectiveness of the gospel message in 2 Corinthians 6:1-10. How does his personal integrity serve as a defense of his ministry?
2. Discuss the significance of reconciliation, both vertically and laterally, as presented in 2 Corinthians 6:1-13. Why does Paul emphasize the importance of the Corinthians' reconciliation with him as well as with God?
3. Examine the paradoxical descriptions Paul uses to characterize his apostolic ministry in 2 Corinthians 6:4-10. What is the purpose of these seemingly contradictory statements, and what do they reveal about the nature of serving Christ?
4. Explore the theological implications of Paul's statement in 2 Corinthians 6:16 that believers are the "temple of the living God." How does this identity shape the call to separation in verses 14-18, and what are its practical applications for Christian living?
5. Evaluate the arguments for and against the passage on not being "unequally yoked" (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1) being an interpolation. Regardless of its origin, how does this teaching contribute to the broader themes of holiness and separation in Paul's letters, as discussed in the lecture?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Apostleship:** The office or role of an apostle, referring to those specially chosen by Christ to lead and establish the early church, like Paul.
- **Ambassador of Christ:** A representative of Jesus Christ, tasked with proclaiming the gospel and urging people to be reconciled to God. According to the lecture, this role extends to all believers.
- **Grace of God:** God's unmerited favor, love, and kindness extended to humanity, particularly in the context of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- **Reconciliation:** The restoration of friendly relations between two parties who were previously estranged. In 2 Corinthians 6, it refers both to the restoration of the relationship between humanity and God, and among believers.
- **Eschatological:** Relating to the "last things" or the end times. The lecture suggests Paul's preaching is part of the unfolding of God's final saving plan.
- **Credibility Gap:** A discrepancy between what someone says or professes and what they actually do or practice. Paul emphasizes the importance of avoiding this in ministry.
- **Paradox:** A seemingly self-contradictory statement that may contain a deeper truth. Paul uses paradoxes to describe the nature of his apostolic experience.
- **Holiness:** The state of being set apart for God and conforming to his righteous character. It involves moral purity and spiritual devotion.
- **Unequally Yoked:** A metaphor derived from agricultural practices, referring to being mismatched or improperly paired with someone, particularly in a way that hinders spiritual growth or compromises one's faith. In the context of 2 Corinthians 6, it refers to inappropriate associations with unbelievers.
- **Interpolation:** The insertion of material into a text that was not originally part of it. Some scholars consider 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 to be a later addition to Paul's letter.

5. FAQs on Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 7, 2 Corinthians 6 – Christian Relationships, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions on 2 Corinthians 6

- **What is the main point Paul is making in 2 Corinthians 6:1-2 regarding the "acceptable time" and "day of salvation"?** While these verses are often used in evangelism to emphasize the urgency of accepting Christ, in their original context within 2 Corinthians, Paul is primarily using them to defend his apostolic ministry and integrity. He presents his work alongside God as co-laborers and urges the Corinthians not to receive God's grace, offered through his (Paul's) apostleship, in vain. This "acceptable time" and "day of salvation" are not just about initial conversion but encompass the ongoing opportunity to respond to God's reconciliation offered through Paul's ministry.
- **Why does Paul emphasize reconciliation not only with God but also with himself (as his apostle)?** Paul highlights that reconciliation is a two-way street, involving both a vertical relationship with God and lateral relationships with fellow believers, particularly with those God has sent, like himself. He was facing estrangement from the Corinthians. Therefore, their failure to reconcile with Paul, God's messenger to them, signified a rejection of the grace of God they had received through his ministry. He stresses that a right relationship with God should naturally lead to right relationships with others in the Christian community.
- **How does Paul defend his apostolic ministry in 2 Corinthians 6:3-10?** Paul defends his ministry by emphasizing his conduct and experiences as a servant of God. He details his commitment to avoiding any offense that could hinder the gospel, highlighting the alignment between his life and the message he preached. He then provides a lengthy list of hardships he endured (afflictions, beatings, imprisonments, etc.) alongside virtues he demonstrated (purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, etc.) and paradoxical experiences (sorrowful yet always rejoicing, poor yet making many rich). These serve as evidence of his genuine apostleship and the power of God working through him.

- **What does Paul mean when he says believers should "not be mismatched with unbelievers" (2 Corinthians 6:14)?** Paul uses the imagery of being "unequally yoked" (drawing from Old Testament principles about not pairing different kinds of animals for plowing) to urge believers to avoid inappropriate alliances and intimate associations with unbelievers. He argues that there is a fundamental incompatibility between righteousness and lawlessness, light and darkness, Christ and Belial, and believers and unbelievers. This principle extends beyond just marriage and can apply to significant partnerships and influences in various areas of life, emphasizing the distinct identity and values of the Christian community.
- **What is the significance of Paul referring to believers as the "temple of the living God" in 2 Corinthians 6:16?** By calling believers the "temple of the living God" (using the Greek word *naos* referring to the inner sanctuary), Paul emphasizes that God's presence now dwells within the community of believers, not in a physical structure. This signifies the sacredness of the church and the individual believer. It underscores the need for holiness and purity within the community and implies that the way believers treat one another and conduct themselves should reflect the presence of God among them.
- **How does the concept of the church as the temple relate to the call for separation from unbelievers in the same passage?** The idea that believers are the temple of God reinforces the call for separation. Just as the Old Testament temple was to be kept holy and separate from defilement, so too should the community of believers maintain a distinct identity and avoid being compromised by the values and practices of the ungodly world around them. This separation is not about isolation but about recognizing their unique identity as God's dwelling place and living in a way that honors that sacred reality.
- **What promises does God give to those who "come out from among" unbelievers and "are separate" (2 Corinthians 6:17-18)?** God promises to receive those who separate themselves from ungodly influences, to be a Father to them, and to consider them as his sons and daughters. This highlights the intimate and familial relationship God desires with those who choose to live in accordance with his holiness. While unequal yoking doesn't necessarily lead to loss of salvation, it can hinder the experience of this close relationship and the accompanying blessings.

- **What are some key self-reflection questions Dr. Adewuya suggests at the end of the passage?** Dr. Adewuya encourages self-reflection by posing questions such as: In what ways can I receive the grace of God in vain? How important is integrity in the minister's life? What is holiness, and how does it manifest in a believer's life? In what ways can I become unequally yoked in life and ministry? These questions prompt believers to examine their response to God's grace, the consistency of their lives with the gospel, their understanding and pursuit of holiness, and the potential for compromising their faith through unwise associations.