

2

Being Equally Yoked. Are You Bringing Something to the Table?

When we talk about being equally yoked, I am going to refer to the very basic definition as it states in the Bible:

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NIV)

Being equally yoked is not JUST about being with another believer; it goes well beyond that. I am going to break this section into two parts. Being equally yoked with a man in life in general, being equally yoked in spiritual life, and why you need to have BOTH of these.

Being Equally Yoked in General

Being equally yoked means there is a relationship between two people that have similar things to offer each other and balance each other out. One person should not be leeching off the other. One person should not be bringing

everything to the table while the other person brings nothing. This balance can come in all different types of ways, but essentially the relationship should NOT be unbalanced.

Let me tell you a story. I was talking to a girlfriend who was dating a rich man and had been on a few dates with him. She told me that she had been laid off and that she hinted on a date that she could not pay her bills and that she expected the man to give money to her.

I was very much against this because, in a sense, she was using the man. Here he was trying to get to know her. They, had only been on a handful of dates, and already she had her hand out. She did not have her life together, she could not offer him emotional support; all she did was complain and ask him for money.

Out of all the women in the sea, WHY would he choose that type of woman to be with? He was not getting anything positive from the relationship. She didn't have to have the same amount of money he did, but he should at least feel like she was bringing value to the relationship.

But she didn't. She just brought complaining, asking him for money, and talking about how life sucked. Who wants to listen to that? Being equally yoked means that each person is

bringing the same thing to the table. And that does not mean money, but rather value. For example, in the situation I just mentioned instead of being Debbie Downer and sucking the life out of him with all of her problems, she could at least have brought a positive attitude to the table, be someone he wanted to be around, or show him a side of herself worth getting to know instead of coming to a date with her hand out. No one wants to feel used.

Other Examples of Being Unequally Yoked

These types of relationships, are relationships in which one person is giving more, being more, or has different beliefs than the other person. Leaving the relationship unbalanced.

Example of an unequally yoked relationship include:

- He does not like children (and you have children).
- He does not have a job, car, and no motivation to do anything whatsoever, while you are a productive member of society.

Being Equally Yoked in Spiritual Life

“For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?” 2 Corinthians 6:14 (NIV)

This poses a good question. What does the darkness have to do with the light? What business does a good woman have being with a bad man? Why should a faithful person be with a cheater? Why should someone who works hard be with a lazy person?

If you are a Christian, then yes you should seek out another Christian but that is a given. More than anything what are you bringing to the table? And are you looking for someone who can bring something similar? There is no reason for your whole life to be a hot mess where there is nothing good about you and you have absolutely nothing going for yourself.

Do you think that it would be fair for a man who works hard, has a good job, and has everything going for himself to want to be with you? How would that be fair to him? How could you be equally yoked if you bring nothing to the table and you bring him down?

I know that what I am saying is harsh, but it should also have you take a look at yourself and really evaluate who you are and what you have going on. You must be what you want in a mate. Coming into a relationship, BOTH people need to

feel like they are winning by being with one another.

That goes for you too. As a woman if you have it going on, then why would you go with a loser who is not doing anything with himself?

NOW,

I know it can be tempting to go for the really fine guy, with an eight-pack, and who is finer than a glass of wine. The only downside is that he does not believe in God. Don't do it, girl! What does the darkness have to do with the light? If a man does not believe in God, then who does he listen to?

For myself and for many Christian women, God guides your steps always (Proverbs 16:9). If the really fine guy is not listening to God, then who is guiding his steps? And if no one is guiding his steps, then where are you two going? You should want to be with a man that pushes you closer to God and not away from God. He could be the finest man that you ever did see, but if he is not a believer like you, then let go and let God. Do not try to "save his soul" to make him a good fit and do not throw Jesus out of the window because you want to be with him. You cannot change people; only God can.

As you mature in the relationship you know that looks fade; they are not everlasting (Proverbs 31:30). Who someone is on the inside is what is really going to make the relationship work. Take it from someone who knows. A six-pack will only get you so far. He may look good, the sex may be great, and you might love rubbing baby oil on his chest. BUT in the end what is he doing for your soul? How is he pushing you to grow as a person in God and what is he doing with his own soul.

As you grow in God, you begin to see what is important versus what is not. And finding man that is equally yoked with you when it comes to your belief in the Lord is something to be valued over a man that just draws you in with his looks.