

Unscriptural Alliance Part II

politics - God's children are to separate themselves from politics, from any alliance with unbelievers. They are not to link their interests with the interests of the world. {**Gospel Workers 395.4**}

missionary institutions (ministry/publication/schools/medical)- Those employed in any department of the work whereby the world may be transformed, **must not enter into alliance with those who know not the truth.** The world know not the Father and the Son, and they have no spiritual discernment as to the character of our work, as to what we shall do or shall not do. We must obey the orders that come from above. We are not to hear the counsel or follow the plans suggested by unbelievers. Suggestions made by those who know not the work that God is doing for this time will be such as to weaken the power of the instrumentalities of God. By accepting such suggestions, the counsel of Christ is set at nought. . . . {**4 Manuscript Releases 68.3**}

friendships / relatives- Many urge that by **uniting with worldlings** and conforming to their customs they might exert a stronger influence over the ungodly. But all who pursue this course thereby separate from the Source of their strength. Becoming the friends of the world, they are the enemies of God. {**Conflict and Courage 146.3**}

We cannot be too jealous of ourselves, lest by **associating with worldlings** we fall into the same habits. It was for this reason that the Israelites were commanded to dwell alone, as a people separate from all other nations. The friendship of the Lord's enemies is more to be dreaded than their enmity; for Satan is constantly working through pleasing, intelligent unbelievers, to tempt the people of God to sin. {**Signs of the Times, December 30, 1880 par. 19**}

Proverbs 13:20 He that walketh with wise [men] shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

Worldly associations attract and dazzle the senses so that piety, the fear of God, faithfulness, and loyalty have not power to keep men steadfast. {**Adventist Home 461.3**}

But we cannot **willingly associate with those who are trampling upon the law of God**, and preserve our faith pure and untarnished. We shall catch the spirit, and unless we separate from them, we shall be bound up with them at last, to share their doom. {**Adventist Homes 459.4**}

Associating with the ungodly allures God's people to sin:

So now it is by leading the followers of Christ to **associate with the ungodly and unite in their amusements** that Satan is most successful in alluring them into sin. {**Adventist Homes 460.1**}

What about worldly relatives:

We must not center our affections on **worldly relatives**, who have no desire to learn the truth. We may seek in every way, while associated with them, to let our light shine; but our words, our deportment, our customs and practices, should not in any sense be molded by their ideas and customs. We are to show forth the truth in all our intercourse with them. If we cannot do this, the **less association we have with them the better it will be for our spirituality.** {**Adventist Home 462.1**}

There is danger in departing in the least from the Lord's instruction. When we deviate from the plain

path of duty, a train of circumstances will arise that seems irresistibly to draw us farther and farther from the right. **Needless intimacies** with those who have no respect for God will seduce us ere we are aware. The fear of offending worldly friends will deter us from expressing our gratitude to God, or acknowledging our dependence upon him. **{Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene 115.2}**

Circumstances will arise to divert the mind. Visitors, relatives, or worldly friends, or some temporal matter, will engage the attention; and then "cometh the devil, and taketh the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved." These friends will make demands upon your **time and strength**, and thus God is robbed of the service due him. Yet you flatter yourselves that you cannot do otherwise; for how can you displease your friends? God will not bring a curse upon you for thus robbing him, but your own course of action brings its sure result.... However dear your friends may be, if they lead you away from God they are emissaries of Satan, who works through the children of disobedience, speaks through human organs. **{Signs of the Times, May 8, 1884 par. 5}**

If we place ourselves among **associates whose influence has a tendency to make us forgetful of the high claims the Lord has upon us**, we invite temptation and become too weak in moral power to resist it. We come to partake of the spirit and cherish the ideas of our associates and to place sacred and eternal things lower than the ideas of our friends. We are, in short, leavened just as the enemy of all righteousness designed we should be. **{Adventist Homes 459.2}**

The **alliances made by the Israelites with their heathen neighbors** resulted in **the loss of their identity as God's peculiar people**. They became leavened by the evil practises of those with whom they formed forbidden alliances. Affiliation with worldlings caused them to lose their first love, and their zeal for God's service. The advantages they sold themselves to gain, brought only disappointment, and caused the loss of many souls. **{Review and Herald, August 4, 1904 par. 9}**

The **experience of Israel will be the experience** of all who go to the world for strength, turning away from the living God. Those who forsake the mighty One, the source of all strength, and affiliate with worldlings, placing on them their dependence, become weak in moral power, as are those in whom they trust. **{RH, August 4, 1904 par. 10}**

Object Lessons:

1. **Samson** - (Samson, that mighty man of valor, was under a solemn vow to be a Nazarite during the period of his life; but, becoming infatuated by the charms of lewd woman, he rashly broke that sacred pledge. Satan worked through his agents to destroy this ruler of Israel, that the mysterious power which he possessed might no longer intimidate the enemies of God's people. It was the influence of this bold woman that separated him from God, her artifices that proved his ruin. The love and service which God claims, Samson gave to this woman. This was idolatry. He lost all sense of the sacred character and work of God, and sacrificed honor, conscience, and every valuable interest, to base passion. **{ST, December 30, 1880 par. 9}**)

But under the influence of wicked associates he let go that hold upon God which is man's only safeguard, and he was swept away by the tide of evil. Those who in the way of duty are brought into trial may be sure that God will preserve them; but if men willfully place themselves under the power of temptation, they will fall sooner or later. **{AH 460.2}**

2. **Solomon** – political alliances - But as King Solomon's heart was lifted up in pride, he became eager for still greater wealth and power. To secure these, political alliances were formed with idolatrous nations. {ST, December 30, 1880 par. 10}

Never was there a time in earth's history when this warning was more appropriate than at the present time. Many professed Christians think, like Solomon, that they may unite with the ungodly, because their influence over those who are in the wrong will be beneficial; but too often they themselves, entrapped and overcome, yield their sacred faith, sacrifice principle, and separate themselves from God. One false step leads to another, till at last they place themselves where they cannot hope to break the chains that bind them. {FE 500.1}

3. **Children of lot** -

Lot chose Sodom for his home.... His children were becoming like these wicked people, **for association with them had perverted their morals.** ... His family connections were extensive, his children having married among the Sodomites. The Lord's anger was finally kindled against the wicked inhabitants of the city, and angels of God visited Sodom to bring forth Lot, that he should not perish in the overthrow of the city...The **marriage of Lot and his choice of Sodom for a home** were the first links in a chain of events fraught with evil to the world for many generations. {CC 48.5}

4. **Israel's history** - It was by **associating with idolaters and joining in their festivities** that the Hebrews were led to transgress God's law and bring His judgments upon the nation. {AH 460.1}

At this time, Midianitish women were seen stealing into the camp, singly and in little companies. Their appearance excited no alarm, and so quietly were their plans conducted, that the attention of Moses was not called to the matter. **It was the object of these women in their association with the Hebrews to first draw their attention from the God of Israel to heathen traditions, rites, and customs, and then to allure them into transgression of the divine law.** These motives were studiously concealed under the garb of **friendship**, so that they were not suspected, even by the great leader. These heathen women feared to excite the indignation of Moses, but they did not consider that no evil work could be concealed from the all-seeing eye of God. {ST, December 30, 1880 par. 2}

Their hellish plans were all too successful. It was not long before the poison of licentiousness and idolatry had **spread like a deadly infection through the congregation of Israel.** The people seemed to be infatuated... Alas that the people who had been so signally protected from Satan's power, should now deliberately walk into the net which he had laid for them! {ST, December 30, 1880 par. 3}

God bless!!