

Refrigerator Notes 22 November 2015  
'Church is for Sinners, But It's Not a Pig-Pen'  
2 Corinthians 6:14-18, 7:1

1. The Bible gives credibility to the fact that the Church was made for 'sinners' – Mark 2:17
2. The back drop for Jesus' comments in Mark 2 was a character straight out of the comic strip 'Peanuts' by Charles M. Schulz, known as "Pig-Pen"
3. Pig-Pen was proud of his uncleanness and is best known for his perpetually filthy overalls
4. A clear example of Pig-Pen deception was once he presented his clean side to 'Patty', causing her to believe he was completely clean
5. Many Christians come into the church in the same way, presenting their persona as being clean, while they have one foot in the world, trying to keep the other foot in the doors of the church
6. Much of our world is UNASHAMEDLY wallowing in the mud of sin and immorality
7. Yet, we know fully well that the world is unchristian, hence the problem - many Christians find themselves trying to operate in both worlds
8. Paul tells us in the text that Christians should avoid close contact with unbelievers – that we should not become unequally yoked together with unbelievers
9. It was a principle of God's people being separated from the world that has been a prevalent teaching point, not only in the church, but in God's dealing with His chosen – the Israelites
10. Even though the Israelites have provided many of life lessons of their wrong doings, Christians have failed to take heed! "Heaven and earth will pass away, but the words of God will never pass away."
11. Paul warns us in the text against certain relationships, yet he also warns us as well, that we need to befriend the world 'to carry the message to unbelievers'
12. However, we are not to allow ourselves to become contaminated by the world and its immoral values
13. It's hard, if not impossible, to give the best of your time, talent and treasures to the Lord, if we are running with the ungodly - 1 Corinthians 15:33
14. I hear church folks saying that times are changing and the church needs to change as well
15. But the word of God does not change and sin is still sin in the Bible, by biblical standards
16. We need to pay attention to the Holy Spirit, which knows the situations we need to avoid, and not allow unbelievers to change our beliefs or faith
17. We are reminded that we cannot walk with the Lord and run with the devil at the same time
18. The church is not in the business of compromises, nor should the church be in the business of conforming to the world, but rather be in the business of transforming the world through the Gospel of Jesus Christ
19. Don't ask God's temple to be a pig-pen, because you believe it is ok
20. Jesus did not come for the righteous, but the sinners – for those who believe in repentance, Come as you are, but leave your dirt and filth at the doorsteps of the church
21. The journey requires all Christians to have both feet in the church and not one foot in a pig-pen