

To Whom Are You Yoked?

In ancient days and today in various countries, people yoke oxen for transportation and hauling loaded wagons. A yoke is a wooden beam that fits onto the necks of two oxen with a U-shaped wooden rod under their necks and fastened to the beam. The owner places an inexperienced ox beside an experienced one and yokes them together. The experienced ox teaches the inexperienced direction and obedience.

Jesus asks us to take his yoke upon us and learn from him (Matthew 11:29, NKJV). Jesus' yoke is not a wood beam and rod. When we accept Jesus, God's Holy Spirit comes into our body to live alongside us. We walk with him as though yoked. The Holy Spirit teaches us all things (1 John 2:27, John 14:26). His teaching is easy, gentle, and loving, giving rest to our minds. He is patient; yet persistent.

Beloved, without Jesus, we wear Satan's yoke of inherited sin. Satan always guides people in ways harmful to them. He intends to steal their life until he takes it away. When we accept Jesus, he removes Satan's yoke of inherited sin and walks beside us (Romans 5:12-21).

Whether you are in the military, work for someone, are selfemployed, or clergy, resist being yoked to your profession. Instead, allow yourself to be yoked with Jesus and learn his ways. With Jesus, you can place one end of your heavy burden on his shoulder, and he will help you carry the other end (Psalm 55:22). Your mind and

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