

4. (optional) Is the "foreign women" (and "foreign men") problem still with us today? Look up 1 Cor 6:14, which is the 'proof-text' often quoted by Christians who say that a Christian person should not enter into a marriage with an unbeliever³. In the context of that chapter, Paul is making an appeal to the Corinthian Christians to be bound ('yoked') to him as their apostle and church leader, instead of others who may be unbelievers and/or deceivers⁴ (see 1 Cor 6:1-13). Do you think that Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians 6:14 establishes a principle in relation to church leadership that should be transferred to the question of choosing a marriage partner?

5. The problem with Solomon's wives was their influence on Solomon. Who are the people closest to you with the greatest influence on your devotion to God? Whom do you influence?

6. Read 1 Kings 11:4-8. What do you think was the impact of Solomon's actions on the "average citizen?"

7. What does God say will be the consequences of Solomon's fall?

8. (optional) Read 1 Kings 12:1-20 where see the fulfillment of God's word spoken to Solomon in 1 Kings 11:11-13. Could Solomon really be the 'offspring/son' promised to David (2 Sam 7:11-16)? Why or why not?

For Prayer

Pray that you will persevere and remain faithful to God in those situations you find yourself influenced or tempted to 'go with the crowd'.

³ Obviously, this only relates to someone contemplating entering a marriage. If you are already married to an unbeliever, you should continue to love and be faithful to that person. 1 Cor 7:1-17 has further instruction in these matters.

⁴ It is likely that Paul is referring to so-called 'super apostles' and Judaizers (2 Cor 11:1-6; 12:1-12).