

SEPARATION

A Devoted Response of Gratitude

Study #19

“Separation” is most often associated with Thomas Jefferson’s phrase “separation of church and state,” (which by the way, is NOT found in the Constitution of the United States of America). This is referred to as *Political Separation* and is not the topic of this lesson (for information on Political Separation see Lesson K).

The doctrine we are addressing here is *Personal Separation*, and it is a Christian’s



devoted response of gratitude for that which God has done for him. The Scriptures say, “*We love him, because he first loved us*” (1 John 4:19).

Separation is a distinctive that has been historically held by Baptists.

Separation has to do with the way we live, the way we conduct ourselves as a people of God. Its

Lesson Overview

- I. Exactly What is Meant by "Separation?"
- II. What is the Basis of Practical Separation?
- III. Separation from the World
- IV. Some Areas of Personal Separation
- V. How Do I Take the Question Out of the Questionable?
- VI. Three Excuses Christians Use for Not Living Separated Lives.
- VII. How Do I Take the Question Out of the Questionable?

emphasis is on **holiness** because God has said, “*Be ye holy; for I am holy*” (1 Peter 1:16). Perhaps the most important element of this study is *attitude*. Desire holiness because God wants it for you; it is the fruit of your life in communion with God. A spiritual Christian will become a holy Christian, but not a “holier-than-thou” Christian. Holiness is God’s righteousness in you; “holier-than-thou” is self-righteousness – the antithesis of God’s desire.

We are living in a world of rapidly declining moral and spiritual values. This decay is seriously affecting Christians and churches to the point that it is often difficult to tell Christians and non-Christians apart.

I. EXACTLY WHAT IS MEANT BY “SEPARATION?”

A. Four Scriptural Words of Similar Meaning

**SEPARATION HOLINESS
SANCTIFICATION SAINTS**

All
have
the
basic
meaning
of

"SET APART"

1. When the Bible says that God is holy, it means He is “set apart” from all His creation in righteousness.
2. When we say the Bible is holy, we mean it is “set apart” from all other books.

- When we are taught to sanctify the Lord in our hearts, this means we are to set God apart from other gods.

Remember this defining concept.

B. Two Aspects To Separation In Our Lives

<p>POSITIONAL SEPARATION</p> <p>↓</p> <p>In Christ, <i>I have been</i> set apart unto God.</p> <p>(Hebrews 10:10) "...we are S_____ through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ O_____ for A_____."</p>	<p>PRACTICAL SEPARATION</p> <p>↓</p> <p>As a Christian, <i>I am to live</i> as set apart unto God.</p> <p>(1 Peter 1:15) "But as he which hath called you is H_____, so be ye holy in A_____ manner of conversation;"</p>
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C. Two Important Directions of Separation



Two Sides of One Coin

(Romans 12:1) "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

(Romans 12:2) "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

II. WHAT IS THE BASIS OF PRACTICAL SEPARATION?

A. The Basis Of God's Nature

1 Peter 1:16 says "Be ye _____; for I am _____."

B. The Basis of Redemption

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19,20 and complete the following:

- "Ye are not Y_____ O_____."
- "Ye are B_____ with a P_____."
- "Therefore G_____ God in your B_____ and in your S_____ which are G_____."

C. The Basis of Regeneration

According to 2 Corinthians 5:17...

- Christians are described as being N_____ creatures.
- Old things have P_____. A_____, that is, the former way of living, the way you used to act, react, think, former sinful patterns of living.

D. The Basis of God's Word

Scriptures such as 2 Corinthians 6:17 plainly instruct us to "come out from among them and be ye S_____."

III. SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD

- A. According to John 15:19, the believer is IN the world, but ought not to be _____ the world –**

because the Lord has chosen us O__ O__ the world.

Separation is not Detachment and Isolation –
Practical separation does not mean we are to enter into a cloistered life and have nothing to do with unsaved people. Jesus interacted with lost people daily – and was censored for it by religious hypocrites.
(Matthew 9:10-13) And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. {11} And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? {12} But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. {13} But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.
The **W** Lesson (Witnessing) will emphasize our need to befriend unredeemed people.

B. According to 1 John 2:15, the believer is to “L_____ N_____ the world, neither the T_____ that are in the world.”

When the Bible speaks of “the world” in this sense, it does not mean the creation of God, His material provisions, and so on. It refers to the “world system,” which is the dominion of Satan.

1 John 2:16 defines the world (in its bad sense) as:

1. The L_____ of the F_____ .
2. The L_____ of the E_____ .
3. The P_____ of L_____ .

C. 1 John 2:17 teaches that doing the W_____ of God is the most important and most enduring thing we can do.

D. According to James 4:4, worldliness is spiritual A _____ .

In James 4:4, what does God call a friend of the world? _____

It is not logical that one can love two opposing systems – good and evil, God’s and the world’s.

E. Romans 12:2 instructs us to be “not C_____ - _____ to this world.”

F. How does James 1:27 define pure religion?

(James 1:27) “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself U_____ from the world.”

G. A worldly Christian is one given over to pleasing the “flesh,” the old sinful nature. The works of the flesh are listed in Galatians 5:19-21. Make a note of them below:

(After making a list above using your Bible, look at the end of this lesson for a short definition of each of these sins.)

IV. SOME AREAS OF PERSONAL SEPARATION

Separation governs personal behaviors, and affects such areas as what I see, where I go, what I do, how I look, what I say, whom I run with, and so on. Does your personal behavior conform to the precepts and principles of God’s Word? You will notice that this lesson does not attempt to give you a list of do’s and don’ts; rather it gives you a spiritual outlook from which you govern your own life.

A. Things I Will Allow My Eyes to See

The Principles

1. Psalm 101:3 says, “I will set N_____ W_____ T_____ before mine eyes.”
2. Job 31:1. In these verses we learn that Job made a C_____ with his eyes never to look upon evil.
3. Why should we guard what goes in our “eye gate?” Consider what Lamentations 3:51 says, “Mine eye A_____ mine H_____”

The Application

This area of personal separation will make a difference in your life in the areas of:

- **Reading Material (Books & Magazines)**
Filthy and pornographic publications (whether printed or in cyberspace) violate Christian purity. Magazines that promote or major on horoscopes, fashions, and romance do not edify.
- **Television Programming (and videos)**
The most important TV control is the “OFF” switch. The garbage that can be brought into your home, the laziness it promotes, and the influence it exerts over young minds requires one to have firm parental control and wisdom. Select your entertainment wisely.

- **Worldly Amusements**

Amusements such as Hollywood movies (with arousing marquees, large sensual posters of upcoming attractions, preview highlights from other movies), and more, do little to foster spiritual growth; in fact, they actually draw one away from having a pure heart and mind.

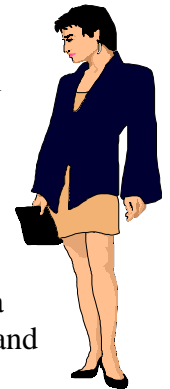
B. Places I Will Allow Myself To Go

The Lord Jesus may come at any moment, and we should never be embarrassed to meet him. In 1 John 2:28 God says, “And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be A_____ before him at his coming.”

There are places where Christians ought not to go, such as, nightclubs, adult bookstores and entertainment centers, dances, discos, casinos, and so on.

C. Things I Wear

Fashion is a difficult issue because it goes through cycles of extremes – from crazy to conservative, from short-short to ankle length, from modest to mini, from appropriate to provocative. The Bible gives instruction in this area, however, *attitude* and *desire for spirituality* determines whether or not a Christian will judge himself or herself and submit accordingly.



1. Clothing makes a statement regarding the kind of person you are, what is in your heart, what your philosophy of life is. Read John T. Molloy’s secular book, *Dress for Success*,

for ample proof that your clothes reveal who you are.
(Proverbs 7:10) “And, behold, there met him a woman with the A____ of an H____, and subtle of heart.” Her clothing identified the nature of her heart.

Clint Collins quotes Norman Karr of the Men’s Fashion Association who says, “More new fashion ideas come from loose women and gay men than any other place.” Why? “These people are more concerned with the sexual inferences they make with their clothes.”

“The tight jeans look that has made Gloria Vanderbilt rich, he (Karr) said, was born when designers noticed that the streetwalkers of Paris had adopted skintight jeans and high heels.”
– Today (magazine of the Philadelphia Inquirer)
May 4, 1980, pages 18-22, 39

2. The standard for Christian women is M____ clothing. 1 Timothy 2:9 says, “...that women adorn themselves in modest A_____.”
3. Bare thighs are equated with nakedness. In Isaiah 47 God is pronouncing judgment upon Babylon for her wickedness. Though He is using symbolism in this passage He states in Isaiah 47:2-3, “make B____ the L____, uncover the T_____ ... thy N_____ shall be uncovered...” Revealing a woman’s legs by uncovering her thighs is tantamount to nakedness.

Caution Ladies

Men are enticed by the sight of a woman's body (hence the use of scantily clad females in advertising). When a woman wears short dresses and skirts, or any tight fitting, sheer, or low-cut clothing, the shape of her body is accentuated and is provocative to a man. **Christian women should not stimulate other women’s husbands by such fashions.** See: Matthew 5:28 and 1 Thessalonians 4:4-7.

What about pants and slacks on women?

Current fashion dictates that women wear pants as an acceptable means of dress. Is this the wisest adornment? Consider the following:

- The Bible teaches that from the beginning God intended men and women to be distinctly different. In Deuteronomy 22:5 the Lord forbids “unisex,” “The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.”
- “Approximately twenty-five years ago, the female began to adopt the life-styles of men, to demand men’s work-patterns, to participate in masculine activities, and to wear masculine apparel.”
Close-Up (a research presentation by the American Broadcasting Company [ABC]), June 25, 1977
- “The adoption of clothing of the opposite sex was forbidden because it obscured the distinction of the sexes and thus violated an essential part of the created order of life.”
(Genesis 1:27), Walvoord & Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary, O.T.*, page 301

- Women should dress like ladies; men should dress like men. God made men and women sexually different, but mutually attractive.

4. Boundaries in choosing clothing
- Is it morally reflecting that which is pure? Or is it suggestive and tempting?
 - Does it reveal my masculinity or femininity?

Clothing Summary

Christians, as imitators of God’s holiness in a world that doesn’t understand Him, must give careful consideration to their clothing. Discernment is greatly needed by God’s people. God’s people in every culture and generation must carefully apply the principles and boundaries listed above.

What is obvious is that during the 1960’s and 70’s a social revolution took place. A part of it was the throwing off of the yoke of distinction between male and female. That is clear from the quotations referenced above by secular writers speaking of society in general. Was that revolution of God? Of course not, it was perpetrated by people who were anti-God and His created order. Does God approve of it? Of course not; He indicates in Deuteronomy 22:5 that there ought to be a distinction between the sexes regarding apparel and in 1 Corinthians 11:14-16 He declared that the length of a man and woman’s hair ought to reflect their God-appointed place.

Fundamental Christians in the 1970’s rightly denounced that rebellion for what it was and called upon God’s people to support the maintenance of God’s created order. Today’s culture is different from the 1960’s. Pants have lost the image of being distinctively male attire. Many ladies who include slacks in their wardrobe are not doing so in rebellion against their femininity. There is always the need to teach people what has happened in history and support the God-ordained principles of morality and gender distinctions.

5. Another perennial fashion issue is the style and length of men and women’s hair.

A general biblical guideline is...

- (1 Corinthians 11:14) “Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a S_____ unto him?”
- (1 Corinthians 11:15) “But if a woman have long hair, it is a G_____ to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.”

How long is long and how short is short? Rather than pushing the guideline to the limit, out of submission to God exhibit behavior that is beyond question.

D. Things I Say

James 3:2-13 is a classic passage on the use of your tongue. Read it and fill in the blanks.



“And the tongue is a F_____, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body....”

“But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly E_____, full of deadly poison.”

“Out of the same mouth proceedeth B_____ and C_____. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.”

Ephesians 4:25 says to put away L_____, and verse 29 instructs us against C_____ speech.

Colossians 4:6 says, “Let your speech be always with G_____, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

Don’t be content thinking, “I don’t lie and I don’t curse.” A maturing Christian uses speech to edify and encourage others. The sins of lying and cursing aren’t committed near as often as gossip, slander, exaggeration, and speaking God’s name vainly (such as using it as an exclamatory statement, “O my God!” when scared or excited).

E. People I Partner With

1. According to Psalm 1:1, a man is blessed when he “walketh N_____ in the C_____ of the U_____.”
2. According to 1 Corinthians 5:11, we are not to keep C_____ with Christians who are worldly and backslidden.

NOTE: The Bible does not advocate that we completely ostracize our wayward brethren.

3. According to Proverbs 22:24, we should steer clear of the A_____ man.
4. Read: Proverbs 9:6; 13:20; 14:7; 23:9. We should avoid close associations with F_____ S. Why? Read Psalm 14:1; Proverbs 1:7; 12:15; 14:9.
5. We should not listen to a T_____ - bearer (Proverbs 16:27-28; 18:8; 20:19; 26:20-22; 2 Thessalonians 3:11; 1 Timothy 5:13).

How Do I Handle a Gossiper?

The best way to control a gossiper is to say something like: “Just a moment. Let’s both go to the person you are talking about, and we’ll hear what you have to say together!”

F. What I Think About

This area of personal holiness deals with an inner quality rather than outward behavior. No one can see what you think about – but God! Most times the battle in the Christian life is lost or won here.



1. Read Philippians 4:8 and record the things God says to **think** about.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. A wise poet wrote,
Sow a **thought**, reap an action.
Sow an action, reap a habit.
Sow a habit, reap a character.
Sow a character, reap a destiny.

What you **think** about determines what you do, what you become, and how far you go in life. Think righteous thoughts, not impure and lustful thoughts.

3. Memorizing Scripture greatly helps a thought life. Reread lesson N (Necessary

Food) and start implementing it if you haven't as yet.

V. SEPARATION IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIPS

A. *2 Corinthians 6:14 warns Christians against being unequally Y_____ together with U_____.*

B. *The greatest application of this principle is in the area of marriage.*

1. It is wrong and dangerous for a Christian to date and marry a lost person.
2. This unequal yoke is predicated on these relationships: (Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-17)

- Righteousness with unrighteousness... ≠ F_____
- Light with darkness ≠ C_____
- Christ with Belial ≠ C_____
- Believers with infidels ≠ Having a P_____
- The temple of God with idols ≠ A_____

C. *Christian men will save themselves much time, heartache, and money by following this biblical principle when seeking business partnerships.*

VI. THREE EXCUSES CHRISTIANS USE FOR NOT LIVING SEPARATED LIVES

A. *Other Christians don't have your standards.*

It is true that some Christians see nothing wrong with rock music, worldly fashions, questionable amusements, etc. – but that doesn't make them right. Study the Bible and form Bible-based convictions; then live by them.

James 4:17 says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do G_____, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

B. *The most important thing is to win souls, and to do this I have to be acceptable to the lost.*

Wrong! You need to be acceptable to God.

Ephesians 5:10 says, "Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord."

A holy Christian that is filled with love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, humility, self-control, and compassion will have NO TROUBLE winning people to Christ! You don't evangelize by being like unsaved people, but by being like Christ.

C. *I have liberty in Christ.*

True, but *liberty* is not *license*. Liberty is the freedom to do **right** – never the freedom to do *anything*!

1. According to Galatians 5:13, we are not to use our "*liberty for an occasion to the F_____.*" Our liberty is not to be used as an excuse for enslaving habits.
2. 1 Corinthians 6:12 says we ought not be brought under the P_____ of any.
3. Our liberty is restricted to the things that E_____ (1 Corinthians 10:23).
4. Liberty is not an excuse for hiding sin. It is not to be a "C_____ of M_____." (1 Peter 2:16).

5. According to 1 Corinthians 8:9, our liberty is not to be a S_____ - _____ to a weaker Christian.

2. How would I feel if Christ returned while I was involved in this activity?
3. Would I want everyone to know that I did it? (John 3:20)
4. Can I pray and thank God for it?

VII. HOW DO I TAKE THE QUESTION OUT OF THE QUESTIONABLE?

Here are some biblical principles to consider in determining what is acceptable and unacceptable Christian behavior. *(These principles are applied to a variety of issues in the X lesson.)*



A. Look Up!

(Colossians 3:2) “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”

1. Does the activity violate a direct command from God?
2. Will God be glorified through my participation in it?
3. *(1 Corinthians 10:31) “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”*

B. Look In!

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20) “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? {20} For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

1. What effect will it have on me?
 - On my body?
 - On my mind?

C. Look Out!

(1 Corinthians 8:12) “But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.”

1. What effect will it have on the unsaved?
2. Is this activity an appearance of evil?
3. What effect will it have on the saved?
4. Will it cause my brother to stumble?

Carefully examine your life in light of the principles of God’s Word contained in this lesson. Don’t create a list of do’s and don’ts to try to be spiritual. Spirituality is the condition of and communion of your heart toward God. Love Him, and live above reproach. Don’t condemn other Christians in the process; they may not see things exactly as you do.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH ASSIGNMENT

- ❑ Complete your T Lesson (Trumpet Call of God).
- ❑ Continue reading through the New Testament.
- ❑ Take sermon notes using your *Spiritual Journal*.
- ❑ Give out copies of *The Amazing Story Behind Amazing Grace*.
- ❑ Where would you like to meet for next week’s session?
- ❑ Bring your Bible, pen, T Lesson, and *Spiritual Journal*.

(Galatians 5:19-21) “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, {20} Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance,

emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, {21} Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

- **Adultery** = sexual relations when one of the two is married.
- **Fornication** = (*porneia*) our word pornography comes from this Greek word. Fornication is a broad term referring to all illicit sexual activity.
- **Uncleanness** = moral impurity of any kind that prevents a person from approaching God.
- **Lasciviousness** = unrestrained and uninhibited sexual indulgence without shame and without concern for what others think or how they may be affected.
- **Idolatry** = the worshipping of man-made images.
- **Witchcraft** = (*pharmakeia*) from which we get *pharmacy*. This was the use of mood/mind-altering drugs, usually in religious ceremonies, to induce supposed communication with deities; *pharmakeia* thereby came to be closely related to witchcraft and magic.
- **Hatred** = refers to attitudes (hateful attitudes).
- **Variance** = refers to actions (bitter conflicts) caused by hateful attitudes.
- **Emulations** = jealousies, envyings
- **Wrath** = unrestrained outbursts of anger, fierceness
- **Strife** = disputes, contentions cause from outbursts of anger
- **Seditions** = dissensions, divisions
- **Heresies** = disunions, animosities between parties
- **Envyings** = jealousies, envyings, ongoing expressions of general sins that precede it in this list.
- **Murders** = the slaughter of people, this is the ultimate result of wrath, strife, divisions, animosities, jealousies, and so on.
- **Drunkenness** = intoxication
- **Revellings** = carousing, rioting, rowdy, boisterous, and crude behavior.

Discipler Report Back

S

I met with _____ on _____/_____/_____ and reviewed the contents of this lesson. My comments regarding the discipleship time together are:

(make comments only if they are needed to help the Pastoral staff assist you in ministering to this person)

Discipler's Name _____

Please drop this off at the Hospitality Booth in the church foyer on the first service after conducting this session. This will help the Pastoral staff stay current with the status of our new converts and new members being disciplined.

Thank You