

Godward Separation

The NEED for separation

- 1) A look at our God
 - a) He is holy, holy, holy—Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8
 - b) The concept of holiness carries with it the idea of otherness or apartness (קִדְּוָה) [# 6944]. It emphasizes God's distinction from all that is common, ordinary, or profane.
- 2) A look at our non-believing culture
 - a) Be sure to observe how the Bible describes the “world” (κόσμος) [# 2889] and the “age” (αἰών) [# 165] in which we live
- 3) A look at our Christian subculture

The MEANING of separation

- 1) Hebrew terms
 - a) Badal בָּדַל [# 914] “to separate, divide, make a distinction”
 - i) 1st Kings 8:53—passive sense; note the *divine* responsibility
 - ii) Ezra 6:21; 9:1; 10:11—active sense; note the *human* responsibility
 - b) Nazar נָזַר [# 5139, **5144**, 5145] “separate, consecrate”
 - i) Leviticus 15:31—separate *from*
 - ii) Numbers 6:5—separate *unto*
 - c) Qadosh קָדֹשׁ [# 6918, 6922, **6942**, 6944] “set apart, apartness, not common or profane”
 - i) 1st Kings 9:7
 - ii) 2nd Chronicles 7:16, 20
 - iii) Ezekiel 38:23
 - d) Parad פָּרַד [# 6504]
 - i) Proverbs 18:1
- 2) Greek terms
 - a) Apecho ἀπέχω [# 567-568] “to be far from, abstain (in the middle voice)”
 - i) Acts 15:20, 29—from certain foods and activities
 - ii) 1st Thessalonians 4:3—a command to obey
 - iii) 1st Thessalonians 5:22—a command to obey
 - iv) 1st Timothy 4:3—false separation rooted in the doctrine of demons
 - v) 1st Peter 2:11—an infinitive as a command
 - b) Apotrepo ἀποτρέπω [# 665] “to turn away from, shun, avoid”
 - i) 2nd Timothy 3:5—a command to obey

- c) Apochorizo ἀποχωρίζω [# 673] “part company, go one’s own way”
 - i) Acts 15:39—an example to avoid
- d) Aphistemi ἀφίστημι [# 868] “keep away, abstain”
 - i) Acts 19:9—an example to follow
 - ii) 1st Timothy 6:5—a command to obey [Majority Text]
- e) Aphorizo ἀφορίζω [# 873] “mark off by boundaries”
 - i) Matthew 25:32—note that Christ will do the actual separating
 - ii) Acts 19:9—separation only after hardness of heart became evident
 - iii) 2nd Corinthians 6:17—a command to obey
 - iv) Galatians 2:12—an example to avoid
- f) Ekklineo ἐκκλίνω [# 1578] “turn away from, avoid, shun”
 - i) Romans 16:17—a command to obey
 - ii) 1st Peter 3:11—a command to obey
- g) Stello στέλλω [# 4724] “hold oneself aloof, keep away from, avoid, steer clear of”
 - i) 2nd Thessalonians 3:6—a command to obey
- h) Sunanamignumi συναναμίγνυμι [# 4874] “mix, mingle together, associate with”
 - i) 1st Corinthians 5:9, 11—infinitives to obey
 - ii) 2nd Thessalonians 3:14—two commands to obey
- i) Chorizo χωρίζω [# 5563] “separate, be different from”
 - i) Hebrews 7:26—an example to follow

The ESSENCE of separation

- 1) Defining **worldliness**
 - a) Having the same life-controlling values and passions as the world.
- 2) Defining **godliness**
 - a) Having the same life-controlling values and passions as God.
 - b) Remember the solemn words of Numbers 20:12 and Deuteronomy 32:51.
 - c) Remember the promise for the future in Isaiah 29:22-24 and Ezekiel 38:23.

The MEANS of separation

- 1) By God’s work
 - a) Note the *perfect* (once for all) aspect—Acts 20:32; 26:18; Hebrews 10:10; Jude 1:1
 - b) Note the *present* (ongoing) aspect—Hebrews 2:11; 10:14
 - c) Note the *aorist* (point in time) aspect—Hebrews 10:29; 13:12
- 2) By God’s Word—John 17:17, 19; Ephesians 5:26
- 3) By God’s calling—1st Thessalonians 4:7
- 4) By God’s enabling—2nd Timothy 2:21; Hebrews 12:14

The PRACTICE of separation

- 1) **What** to avoid
 - a) Certain foods and activities—Acts 15:20, 29
 - b) Sexual immorality (πορνεία) [# 4202]—1st Thessalonians 4:3
 - c) Evil (πονηρός) [# 4190] teaching—1st Thessalonians 5:21-22
 - d) False separation rooted in the doctrine of demons—1st Timothy 4:3
 - e) Fleshly lusts (σαρκικός ἐπιθυμία) [# 4559 & 1939] that war against the soul—1st Peter 2:11

- 2) **Who** to avoid
 - a) Our Self—Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34
 - b) Unbelievers—2nd Corinthians 6:17; James 4:4-5
 - i) Those who are rejecting the Word of God—Acts 13:46
 - ii) Those who consistently oppose and blaspheme—Acts 18:6
 - iii) Those who are consistently being spiritually hardened, who consistently refuse to believe, and who consistently speak evil of the Way before others—Acts 19:9
 - iv) Those who appear godly but in reality are unbelievers—2nd Timothy 3:5
 - c) Possible believers
 - i) Divisive professing people operating according to the flesh
 - (1) Romans 16:17
 - (2) Titus 3:10
 - (3) 1st Timothy 6:3-5
 - ii) Unrepentant professing people
 - (1) Matthew 18:15-20
 - (2) 1st Corinthians 5:1-13
 - (3) 2nd Thessalonians 3:6-15

The COST of separation

- 1) Do we value **His** approval?
 - a) Remember Moses' example which was motivated by faith—Hebrews 11:24-26

- 2) Do we value **man's** approval?
 - a) Remember the OT warning—Proverbs 29:25
 - b) Remember Peter's hypocritical example—Galatians 2:12

The DANGERS of separation

- 1) From Godward perspective
 - a) Not reflecting His image accurately—1st Peter 1:15ff
 - b) Not obeying His Truth consistently—2nd Corinthians 6:14-7:1
 - c) Not trusting His grace completely—Jude 1:20-25

- 2) From a manward perspective
 - a) Becoming an isolationist—Proverbs 18:1

- b) Dividing ministry teams—Acts 15:39
- c) Deceiving oneself—Acts 20:30
- d) Deceiving the simple—Romans 16:17
- e) Being a heretic (αἰρετικός) [# 141]—Titus 3:10
- f) Being like false teachers who cause division—Jude 1:19

The EXAMPLE of separation—Jesus Christ

- 1) Separate
 - a) John 10:36—sanctified (ἀγιάζω) [# 37] and sent into the world
 - b) Hebrews 7:26—Holy...undefiled, separated (χωρίζω) [# 5563] from sinners
- 2) Yet friendly
 - a) Matthew 11:19; Luke 7:34—a friend (φίλος) [# 5384] of tax collectors and sinners
 - b) Mark 10:21—Jesus loved (ἀγαπάω # 25) the rich young ruler who rejected Him