

S Separation

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

The issue of “separation” is one of the distinguishing features of Bible-believing Baptists. It is a subject which has to do with the way we live, the way we conduct ourselves as a Church — and, yes, **standards!**

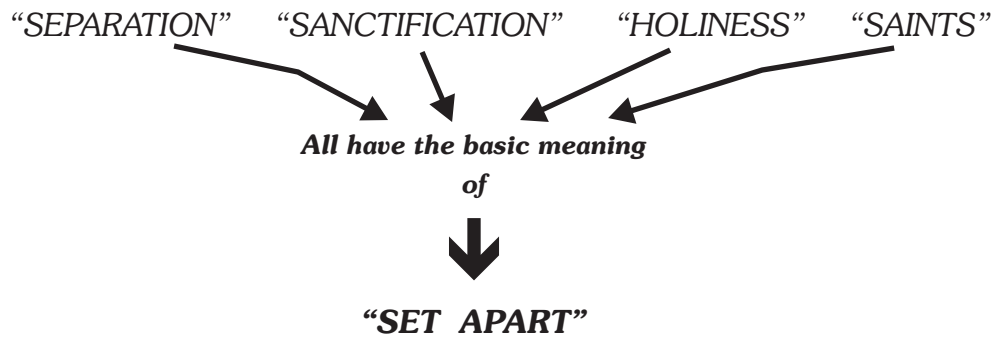
Such a study could quite easily become just a list of “taboos” — but that is only part of what the Lord intends. As you enter into this study of the Bible, it is important for you to grasp the principles involved as well as the practices outlined.

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

EXACTLY WHAT IS MEANT BY “SEPARATION?”

There are three things for you to understand:

A. THERE ARE FOUR BIBLE WORDS HAVING THE SAME MEANING:



1. When we say that God is holy, that 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.
3. When we are taught to sanctify the Lord in our hearts, this means we are to set God apart from idols.

— Remember this definition —

B. THERE ARE TWO ASPECTS TO SEPARATION IN YOUR LIFE:

POSITIONAL SEPARATION

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In Christ, I **HAVE** been set apart unto God.

Hebrews 10:10

"We are _____
through the offering of the body of Jesus
_____ for _____."

PRACTICAL SEPARATION

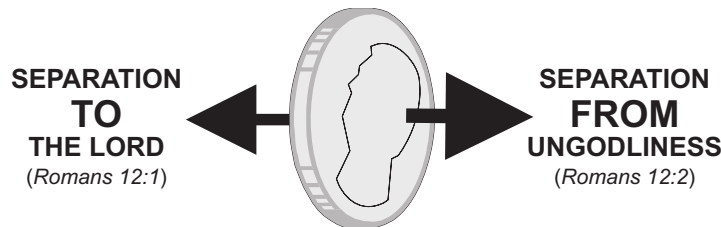
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As a Christian, I **AM TO LIVE** as set apart unto God.

I Peter 1:15

"But as He which hath called you is
_____, so be ye _____ in
_____ manner of conversation (conduct)."

C. THERE ARE TWO IMPORTANT FEATURES TO SEPARATION — two sides of the one coin:



WHAT IS THE BASIS OF PRACTICAL SEPARATION?

A. THE BASIS OF GOD'S NATURE:

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

B. THE BASIS OF REDEMPTION:

Read: *I Corinthians 6:19,20*. Complete the following:

1. "Ye are not _____."
2. "Ye are _____ with a _____."
3. "Therefore _____ God in your _____ and in your _____ which are _____."

C. THE BASIS OF REGENERATION:

Look up: *II Corinthians 5:17*.

1. Christians are described as being a _____ creature.
2. Old things (*ways, etc.*) have _____ .

D. THE BASIS OF GOD’S WORD:

Scriptures such as *II Corinthians 6:17* plainly command us to “come out from among them and be ye _____ .”

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 _____ the world.
(Practical separation does **not** mean we are to enter into a *cloistered* life — or have nothing to do with anyone who is not saved.)

B. According to *I John 2:15*, the believer is to “_____ the world, neither the _____ that are _____ the world.”

C. When the Bible speaks of “the world” in this sense, it does *NOT* mean the creation of God, His material provisions, etc. It refers to the “world system,” which is the dominion of Satan.

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

1. The _____ of the _____ .
2. The _____ of the _____ .
3. The _____ of _____ .

D. *I John 2:17* teaches that doing the _____ of God is the most important and most enduring thing we can do.

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

F. *Romans 12:2* instructs us to be “not _____ to this world.”

G. *James 1:27* defines pure religion from a personal point of view as the Christian keeping himself _____ from the world.

H. 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:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

SOME AREAS OF PERSONAL SEPARATION

A. THE THINGS I WILL ALLOW MY EYES TO SEE:

1. *Psalm 101:3* — “I will will set _____ before mine eyes.”
2. *Job 31:1,7*. Here we learn that Job made a C _____ with his eyes never to look upon evil.

This area of personal separation applies to many common practices, such as:

- **Attending Movies:**

Almost all Hollywood-style movies — even some rated for general exhibition — spew out violence, adultery, drunkenness, witchcraft, and all kinds of perverted and ungodly living. Christians ought not support this industry — either by attending movie theaters or watching their videos.

- **Watching Television:**

If you feel at liberty to own a TV set, the most important 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 real wisdom and firm control. Believers will be better off without one.

- **Spending Time On-Line and Playing Electronic Games:**

Many internet web sites and “chat rooms” pose a real danger, because they are virtually uncontrollable as to their content. Testimonies have been ruined because of internet pornography. Violent and devilish video games do much more than amuse.

- **Reading the Wrong Kinds of Books & Magazines:**

Filthy and pornographic publications should never be in the possession of a Christian. Don’t pay any attention to women’s magazines with their horoscopes, fashions, and “romance.”

B. THE PLACES I WILL ALLOW MYSELF TO GO:

We are taught that the Lord Jesus may come at any moment, and that we should never be ashamed to meet him — *I John 2:28*. There are many places where Christians ought not go — the dance hall, the liquor outlets, the gambling establishments, etc. [The scriptural reasons why will be covered in Study #24.]

C. THE THINGS I WEAR:

The area of fashion is a difficult one for many believers, especially Christian women. This is because fashions go through cycles of extremes — from weird to conservative, from short-short to ankle length, from modest to provocative, etc. The Bible does, however, give clear instruction in this area:

1. The fashion of the world “ _____ ” — *I Corinthians 7:31*.
2. The standard for Christian women is _____ apparel — *I Timothy 2:9*.
3. Bare thighs (such as with mini-skirts and shorts) is equated with nakedness, according to *Isaiah 47:2,3*.
4. Short hair on women is a _____, according to *I Corinthians 11:6*. This passage goes on to explain that a woman’s long hair is a token of her subjection to her husband and to God — *verse 15*.
5. Likewise, long hair on men is improper — *I Corinthians 11:14*.
6. **What about pants and slacks on women?**

Current western fashion dictates that women get around in pants as an acceptable means of dress. This is unwise for the following reasons:

- a. The Bible teaches that from the beginning God intended men and women to be distinctly separate. According to *Deuteronomy 22:5*, women should dress like ladies; men should dress like men.
- b. God made men and women sexually different, but mutually attractive. Men are enticed by the sight of a woman’s body (hence the use of scantily-clad females in advertising). When a woman wears pants (or any tight-fitting or low-cut clothing), the shape of her body is accentuated and thereby can provoke a man. *See: Matthew 5:28; I Thessalonians 4:4-7; Proverbs 7:10*.
- c. The argument is often raised: “Slack-suits are women’s clothing,” which may be true from a world-fashion point of view. However, practice shows that when Christian women start wearing slacks, it only “opens the door” to others who will want to wear tight jeans.

D. THE THINGS I SAY:

1. *Ephesians 4:29* teaches against _____ communication.
2. *Ephesians 5:19* admonishes a believer’s speech to be Christ-centered.
3. *Colossians 4:6* says our speech should always be with _____.

Note: Every language has a list of curse words. Christians should not use them! Never be heard using the precious Name of the Lord Jesus Christ (*Philippians 2:9*) or God in careless speech.

Euphemisms (words used in place of curse words, such as “Geez,” “By Jove,” “Gosh,” etc.) should be avoided also.

E. THE PEOPLE I ASSOCIATE WITH:

1. According to *Psalms 1:1*, a man is blessed when he walketh _____ in the _____ of the U _____.
2. According to *I Corinthians 5:11*, we are not to keep _____ with Christians who are worldly and backslidden (or under discipline).
Note: The Bible is not advocating the complete ostracizing of our wayward brethren.
3. According to *Proverbs 22:24*, we should steer clear of the _____ man.
4. Read: *Proverbs 9:6; 13:20; 14:7; 23:9*. We should avoid close associations with _____ S. (Why? See: *Psalms 14:1; Proverbs 1:7; 12:15; 14:9*.)
5. We should never stop to listen to a _____-bearer. (See: *Proverbs 16:27,28; 18:8; 20:19; 26:20-22; II Thessalonians 3:11; I Timothy 5:13*) The best way to handle a gossip 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!”

SEPARATION IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIPS

- A. *II Corinthians 6:14* warns the Christian against being unequally _____ together with _____.
- B. The most important application of this principle is in the area of marriage. It is both wrong and dangerous for a young person who is a Christian to date an unsaved person. It is a sin for a Christian to marry a non-Christian.
Young Person — If you are desiring to get married, first pray and ask God to give you the partner of His choice; then look for God’s answer from your parents and in your own church (or in other Baptist churches of like faith and order).

SEPARATION IN RELIGIOUS MATTERS

We are living in an ecumenical age where all religions and branches of Christendom are coming together in religious unity. When Bible-believing Baptists refuse to have any part with the World Council of Churches, or fellowship with non-Baptist religious

groups, or even work together with other Baptists, they are often called “narrow-minded,” “unloving,” “extremists,” etc.

- A. The Bible says in *Ephesians 5:11* we are to have:
“ _____ with the _____
works of darkness.”
- B. *Amos 3:3* asks, “Can two walk together except they be _____?”
- C. *II John 9,10* states that we are to have nothing to do with those who abide not in the doctrine of _____.
- D. According to *Romans 16:17*, we are to _____ those which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the _____ which we have learned, and _____ them.

THREE EXCUSES CHRISTIANS OFTEN USE FOR NOT LIVING SEPARATED LIVES

A. OTHER CHRISTIANS DON'T HAVE YOUR STANDARDS:

Unfortunately, this is true. Many Christians see nothing wrong with rock music, worldly fashions, questionable amusements, etc. — but that doesn't make it right! We need to study the Bible and form Bible-based convictions; then live by them.

Read: *James 4:17*.

B. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO WIN SOULS, AND TO DO THIS I HAVE TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE LOST:

No! You need to please your Lord. It is NEVER right to do wrong in order to accomplish a right!

I Thessalonians 5:22 instructs the believer to “ _____ from _____
_____ of evil.

C. I HAVE LIBERTY IN CHRIST:

1. True, but Christian liberty is *NOT* license. Liberty is the freedom to do *RIGHT* — never the freedom to do anything!
2. We are not to use our liberty as an occasion to the _____ — *Galatians 5:13*.
3. Our liberty is not to be used as an excuse for enslaving habits.

We should not be brought under the _____ of any habit —
I Corinthians 6:12.

4. Our liberty is restricted to the things that E _____ — *I Corinthians 10:23.*
5. Liberty is not an excuse for hiding sin. It is not to be a _____ of _____ — *I Peter 2:16.*
6. Our Christian liberty must never be a _____ — _____ to a weaker Christian — *I Corinthians 8:9.*

PRINCIPLES FOR LIVING A SEPARATED LIFE

There are many particular activities not named specifically in the Bible — such as smoking, drugs, mixed swimming, etc. Here are some principles or guidelines you can use when faced with a questionable practice:

A. IS IT SCRIPTURAL?

Does the Word of God have anything directly to say on the matter? Read: *Psalm 119:15,105.*

B. CAN I DO THIS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD?

Write out *Colossians 3:17.* _____

C. WILL OTHERS BE HINDERED IN THEIR SALVATION OR SPIRITUAL GROWTH BY WHAT I DO?

Read: *Romans 14:21.*

D. DO I HAVE SOME DOUBTS ABOUT IT?

An wise old saying: “*When in doubt — don’t!*” *Romans 14:22,23* defines doubt is a lack of faith, which is _____.

E. WOULD WHAT I WANT TO DO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE LORD?

Read: *Ephesians 5:10.*

Always ask the questions: “**Can I take the Lord Jesus there?**” “**Would He join in with me?**” “**Would He do it?**” This will solve most of your problems.

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *I Thessalonians 5:22.*