

“Be Ye Separate”
2 Corinthians 6:11-18
11/28/21
Message 11

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “Be Ye Separate”

• **Review**

- **We’re in the middle of a study in the book of 2 Corinthians**
 - Paul has written this letter
 - After Receiving word from Titus that the Corinthians had responded to 1 Corinthians
 - Remember - 1 Corinthians was a Corrective Letter –
 - They did not like being corrected – But of course who does...
 - But the Good News – Many did respond and REPENT
 - Paul is very happy to hear that MANY of the Corinthians have Repented
 - Even though Paul still has some Nay Sayers in Corinth
 - Paul Writes this letter to Encouragement & in Defense of his Apostleship

• **Backdrop**

- **NOW Corinth was a...**
 - **Show Pics**
 - Large City – (Estimated 700,000 people)

- Wealthy City
- A Resort Type of City
 - It attracted those seeking pleasure from all over the region.
- A Port City – Las Vegas of the day
 - Which made Corinth a convenient & popular stopping place for sailors –
 - Looking to get drunk & indulge in one night stands
 - *Slogan “What happens in Corinth stays in Corinth!”*
- Known for Temple Worship
 - It was filled with shrines & pagan temples
 - The most popular was the
 - Temple of Aphrodite "Goddess of love"
 - This Temple Employed 1000 temple prostitutes who went out every night soliciting business in the name of worship
- As a Result it was a Wicked City...
 - In Fact in Rome at the time they had a saying to describe those who lives were Characterized by living Loose / immorality & drunkenness
 - They said you are behaving like a Corinthian...
- **This was the Backdrop for the Believers Living there**
 - So with this as the back drop Paul says...

- "Do not be Unequally Yoked with unbelievers."
- "Be Separate"
- DO you think this is a relevant issue for our day?!
- **Now this Morning we will Answer**
 - What does it mean
 - To be Unequally Yoked?
 - To be Separate?

• **BUT Before We do – LETS make sure were Clear on a couple things**

- **1st The Difference Between Holiness vs. Legalism**
 - **Holiness –**
 - God has Called us to be Separate (Holy) = God's Word and Standard for our lives
 - God has made it VERY clear in His Word What Separation & Holiness looks like
 - Motivation For Holiness
 - We are SAVED by God's Amazing Grace –
 - Now I want to live in Response to HIS GRACE
 - **Legalism –**
 - 1st You can EARN your Salvation
 - Somehow, we can make up a bunch of rules and earn salvation

- 2nd Separation comes from Man-Made Rules
 - One person says this is wrong another say that is wrong
 - Based on Personal Preference Without support from the Word of God
 - Illustration
 - Texas Christian Radio – NO SHORT Ever
- **2nd The Difference Between Mature Believer vs. Carnal**
 - Mature Believers vs. Carnal Believers on how they SEE HOLINESS
 - **Mature Believer**
 - Consistently Growing – Intimate Relationship with God
 - They Hear God's Word and Respond
 - They don't make Excuses for themselves
 - In Fellowship –
 - In a Ministry – Serving Jesus
 - They Do NOT ASK –
 - How close can I Get the Line of sin before Crossing
 - **Carnal Believer**
 - Not Growing – In an arrested state of development
 - May have a BUNCH of Biblical Knowledge –
 - BUT no Wisdom – In their Heads BUT not their Hearts

- Lack of Fellowship – they are pulling away from the body
 - Always Complaining about the church members, pastor, etc...
- Lack of Ministry –
- They ASK the question –
 - HOW far can I get to the LINE and not SIN
 - Illustration
 - Texas – Lake Travis –

• **Now let's look at 3 Powerful Truths to "Be Ye Separate"**

- Paul's Care vs. 11-13
- God's Condemnation vs. 14-16
- God's Command vs. 17-18

Paul's CARE vs. 11-13

• **First: He refers to his Act of teaching v. 11**

2 Corinthians 6:11 (NKJV)

11 O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open.

- **1st Backdrop**
 - Throughout the letter
 - We've seen how the Corinthians felt about Paul.
 - They did not like Paul
 - They Challenging Paul's authority over the church.
 - They have Ripped Paul Apart

- They have Gossip about him
- They have divided the people
- Lesson – Pastor & Leaders better have a thick skin
 - Better know that sadly there will be those in the church that will rip you apart
 - Be Ready BUT you must respond in LOVE back – Just like Paul
- **2nd O Corinthians!**
 - We can sense the depth and passion in his heart as he cries “O Corinthians!”
 - No matter how they treated him – his response back was LOVE
- **3rd We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open:**
 - Spoke the TRUTH
 - Paul is practicing what he preached in Ephesians 4:15:
 - Speaking the Truth in Love
 - We NEED more of this in the Church today
 - He genuinely LOVED them - with an open heart,
 - Desired the best for them

• **Second: He refers to their Attitude toward him v. 12**

2 Corinthians 6:12 (NKJV)

12 *You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections.*

- **1st They Pulled away – Paul never moved**

- The King James

2 Corinthians 6:12 (KJV 1900)

12 *Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels.*

- **1st The Corinthian Christians played the “VICTIM”**

- Paul was FIRM in 1 Corinthians – Had to be
 - Out of godly necessity he was firm with them on previous occasions (1 Corinthians 4:18-21, 2 Corinthians 1:23).
- So Corinthians...
 - Claimed to be restricted by the “hurt” Paul caused them.
 - ***They probably said, “We would love to reconcile with you Paul, but the pain you caused us restricts us. We just can’t get over it.”***
- The REAL Problem
 - The Corinthian Christians were restricted by [their] own affections.
 - It wasn’t that Paul did not love them enough (which was their claim as “victims”).
 - They loved the world too much
 - They also loved themselves too much and refused to really deal with their selfish and worldly attitudes towards Paul.

- **2nd Lesson - Irritable Bowels**

- Got your attention?

- Paul
 - Was open and loving towards the Corinthians.
- The Corinthians
 - Were closed and critical to him.
- For us
 - Sometimes we are like Paul, open and loving towards others
 - Sadly they are not that way towards us.
 - The Problem
 - The other person's "affections", or in Bible-speak, their "bowels".
 - They just want to be Angry & Critical
 - Paul tells the Corinthians that his mouth and heart are "open" to them.
 - He encourages them to try to be "open" to him as well.

• **Fourth: He refers to their Acceptance of responsibility v. 13**

2 Corinthians 6:13 (NKJV)

13 Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open.

- **1st As To Children**
 - 1st They are his Children in the faith
 - 2nd Acting like Children
- **2nd You also be open:**

- Paul wants to see the same self-searching honesty in the Corinthian Christians that he just displayed to them.
- The rift between Paul and the Corinthian church could be healed,
 - BUT it was in the hands of the Corinthian Christians to do it.
 - They had to also be open

God's CONDEMNATION vs. 14-16

- **First: Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers v. 14a**

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NKJV)

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. *For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*

○ **1st Yoked**

- **1st The idea of do not be unequally yoked together is based on Deuteronomy 22:10**

Deuteronomy 22:10 (NKJV)

10 "You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together.

- This prohibited yoking together two different animals.
- It speaks of joining two things that should not be joined
- The Ox Will be Pulled down by the Lesser Donkey
- **2nd Yoke of Bondage – The Law**
 - Jewish Believers wanting the Gentile believer to follow the Law

- Acts 15:5, 10; Gal. 5:1

Galatians 5:1 (NKJV)

1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

- **3rd Jesus Speaks of Yoke**

Matthew 11:29–30 (NKJV)

29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

- Put Off the Bondage of SIN
- Take Hold of the Yoke of Life – Jesus
- **2nd Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers**
 - **1st They Had joined forces with Non - Believers**
 - This prevented their reconciliation with Paul.
 - This kept them in the arrested state of development
 - **2nd In What Ways can we be Unequally Yoke with Unbelievers**
 - Marriage
 - Unmarried – Trust me stay away from those in the world
 - Business Partners
 - At Some point this may cause tension
 - Close Friends

- They have a pull on your life – they may pull you down

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NKJV)

33 *Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”*

- **Paul is not suggesting that Christians never associate with unbelievers – More on this in a Minute**

▪ **3rd Speaks of Influence**

- It's MUCH more than only marrying an unbeliever, or a business partner
 - It really applies to any environment where we let the world influence our thinking.
 - We Stop being Transformed by God's Word and start to become Conformed to this world

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

2 *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

- We NEED to be Like the Ship in the Water
- Ways we begin to become conformed by the World
 - May come through...
 - Books
 - Movie
 - Television shows
 - Magazine
 - Etc...
- Be Careful

- O be careful little eyes what you see
- O be careful little eyes what you see
- For the Father up above
- Is looking down in love
- So, be careful little eyes what you see

▪ **4th The Corinthian Christians thought like worldly people, not like godly people.**

- They stayed in it – because of their ungodly associations.
- Paul tells them to break those yokes of fellowship with the ungodly!

▪ **5th Are you Unequally Yoke to this World?!**

• **Second: What fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? V. 14b**

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NKJV)

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. *For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*

○ **1st The Modern Definition of Tolerant = Accepting**

▪ **This was the Corinthians Problem –**

- Sadly - the problem of Today's church

▪ **Paul is REMINDING them**

- What fellowship has RIGHTEOUSNESS with Lawlessness
- What Communion has light with Darkness?

▪ **Lesson – The More you Mature**

- I am sure you Noticed
- The Less you will have in common with this world

• **Third: What agreement has the temple of God with idols?**

2 Corinthians 6:15 (NKJV)

15 *And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?*

○ **1st And what accord has Christ with Belial?**

▪ **Belial – Greek: 1016 Βελιάρ (Beliar)**

- Means:
 - A pagan god
 - “Utterly Worthless or Wicked”; a name of Satan
- Satan is Utterly Worthless – Wicked
- God Is Worthy = Worship
- You CANT worship God and Satan (this World) at the same time

▪ **Satan has ONLY one PLAN - To Destroy**

John 10:10 (NKJV)

10 *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

- 2 ways he accomplishes that plan
- Plan A
 - Manipulation
 - Feminine
 - Moon god

- Subtle
 - From a Position of Weakness
 - False god Asherah
- Plan B
 - Intimidation
 - Masculine
 - Sun god
 - Overt
 - From a position of Strength
 - False god Baal
- If Satan can't Intimidate he will Manipulate
 - Seen in Early Church
 - Seen in Persecuted Church
- **2nd The Corinthian Christians still struggled with the Idolatry Problem**
 - Paul referred to it Here and in 1 Corinthians 8-10
 - Their association with idols
 - Influenced their thinking
 - Making it more and more worldly
 - **Lesson – Sadly the Same Problem in the Church today**
 - The Occult is alive and well in the church
 - Occult - as “hidden, secret and mysterious, particularly pertaining to the supernatural.”
 - Just a few Examples of occult practices
 - Astrology
 - Witchcraft (Wicca)

- The black arts
 - Fortune telling
 - Magic
 - Ouija boards
 - Tarot Cards
 - Spiritism
 - Parapsychology
 - Yoga
 - Satanism
 - Etc...
- Human beings have always been interested the occult
 - From ancient times until today.
 - Many people who get involved in the occult begin with "harmless" practices
 - BUT their END is NOT GOOD
 - Christians are Commanded by God
 - To stay away from these Practices
 - Why?
 - You are the Temple of God

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV)

19 *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?*

20 *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

- Temples are holy places and should be protected against things that might defile the holy place
- We MUST protect our hearts and minds as holy places before the Lord.

God's COMMAND to separate vs. 17-18

- **First: Come out from among them and be separate vs. 17a**

2 Corinthians 6:17 (NKJV)

17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

- **1st Come Out – Be Separate – Don't Touch what is Unclean**

- Paul issues a challenging call to come out.

- He quotes from Isaiah 52:11

Isaiah 52:11 (NKJV)

11 Depart! Depart! Go out from there, Touch no unclean thing; Go out from the midst of her, Be clean, You who bear the vessels of the LORD.

- **God's Instructions to His people**

- Separation from evil.
- Christians are not to stay in the midst of it!!!
- Do NOT touch the Unclean thing
- Illustration –
 - Joe's 'Christian' Teacher
 - Hey Pal – God's Word is clear – Touch NOT the UNCLEAR
 - Stay AWAY from SIN

- **2nd Lesson #1 – Because is Holy and Dwells with us**

- His point is that since God dwells among us, and we are His Temple, we need to learn what "holiness" is all about.

- God is holy.
 - He is different than us.
 - He is separate from sin.
 - He is pure.
 - He wants us to be more like Him and less like the world.

○ **3rd Lesson # 2 - What this looks like in Our Lives**

▪ **1st Be Separate From This World in Lifestyle (Sins)**

- God is clear on what sin is – STAY AWAY from it
- Sadly the Church has become confused

○ Examples – Too MANY

- Homosexual pastors

▪ **2nd Be Separate From This World's Philosophy – LIES**

• **Biblical World View vs. World View**

○ Explain –

▪ **Biblical World View**

- Biblical View through the lens of scripture

▪ There is TRUTH

John 14:6 (NKJV)

6 Jesus said to him, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

- Love the Truth – Be

John 17:17 (NKJV)

17 *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

- We Should Hate ALL Lies
 - There is no such thing as a SMALL LIE
- Personal Responsibility
 - We are Sinners in need of a Savior
- **Worldly Views Philosophy - Lies - We Should run away from**
 - **1st Antinomianism**
 - Without LAWS

Judges 21:25 (NKJV)

25 *In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

- This is Way we see SAVE the Whales BUT it's okay to kill a baby
- **2nd Self-Esteem – It's All about ME**
 - Saw a pole
 - In the 50's – Honor, Duty and Responsibility
 - Today – Rights, Entitlement, What's in it for me
 - Christ said we needed to DIE to ourselves (Luke 9:23/Gal. 2:20)
 - Sadly - the church has adopted the ME first attitude

- Seen in “Christian radio” “modern worship”
- **3rd It’s a Choice – My Body my RIGHTS**
 - No it’s a baby – was a baby before time began
 - This is a VERY serious issue for God (Leviticus)
- **4th There are More than 2 Genders**

Genesis 5:2 (NKJV)

2 He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created.

- **5th Ice Age, Global Warming, now Climate Change will destroy the world**

Zechariah 14:4 (NKJV)

4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.

- **6th No Personal Responsibility**
 - Blaming everyone else for their sins
- **7th That there is Something for FREE**
 - NOPE – NEVER
 - Salvation is the only FREE to US
 - BUT it COST the GOD
- **8th Homosexual Marriage**
 - God Created Marriage – first institution He made
 - He made it one male one female for life

- **8th Materialism**

- Happiness is found in your career, wealth, positions, etc...

- As Christians

- We Must stay away from SINS and the World's way of thinking

- **4th Lesson # 3 - What this Looks like with People**

- NOTE: There are three approaches which believers take in dealing with the world and unbelievers:

- 1st ISOLATION –

- Avoiding all Contact

- WRONG –

- If God wanted us to never have contact with the World, He would have taken us home the minute we got saved

- We MUST have contact with the World

- 2nd COMPROMISE –

- Willing to Accept & Tolerate

- WRONG Again

- In the World but NOT of the World

- We cannot Accept SIN

- Illustration –

- Water Bottle filled with Poison – will you let someone drink it?!
- 3rd SEPARATION – But Evangelism
 - Cultural adaptation for the purpose of evangelism
 - RIGHT

• **Second: The Promises from God – 17b-18**

○ **1st God's Approval v. 17b**

2 Corinthians 6:17 (NKJV)

17 Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, **And I will receive you.**”

- “I will receive you”
- When we stand against the World – or a Better way to say it
When we STAND for God the World will reject us

John 15:18 (NKJV)

18 “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

- BUT Don't WORRY God Will Receive YOU

○ **2nd God's Affection v. 18a**

2 Corinthians 6:18 (NKJV)

18 **“I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,**
says the LORD Almighty.”

- We Are Already by Salvation His SONS and DAUGHTERS
- This Speaks to an Intimate relationship with God

Romans 8:14–17 (NKJV)

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together

○ **3rd The Power - God Himself v. 18b**

2 Corinthians 6:18 (NKJV)

18 “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, **says the LORD Almighty.**”

- The Lord Almighty – Greek: pantokrator
 - Used 10 times of which 9 times are in Revelation – 1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 19:6, 15; 21:22
- We Can Count on IT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

• **Now Look at 2 Cor 7 for a minute**

2 Corinthians 7:1–3 (NKJV)

- 1** Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
2 Open your hearts to us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have cheated no one.
3 I do not say this to condemn; for I have said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together.

Closing

Psalm 1 (NKJV)

- 1** Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.
3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.
4 The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.
5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

2 Corinthians 6:17–18 (NKJV)

17 Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.”

18 “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.”