

SEPARATION

GOD'S GUIDELINES FOR ADDRESSING WILLFUL SIN IN THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

*“Therefore, come out from their midst and be **separate**,” says the Lord. “And do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you.” 2 Corinthians 6:17*

***“If you love Me, you will keep My
commandments”
(John 14:15)***

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish and it shall be done for you. By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.” (John 15:7, 8)

*“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.”
(John 15: 10, 11)*

*“You are My friends, if you do what I command you.”
(John 15: 14)*

These words of our Lord Jesus Christ teach us that even though we have the "*free gift*" of eternal life and can "*never*" lose it (John 10:28), the Lord Jesus still wants us to be obedient Christians. Loving Him, having our prayers answered, bearing fruit, having joy, and being Jesus' friend, **all** depend on "*if you keep His commandments!*"

This study addresses the Lord Jesus' commandments to Christians concerning **SEPARATION**. From Genesis to Revelation, the Lord has wanted His people to be separate. In Genesis 6:2, when God's people stopped being separate, the whole world became corrupt. **Only 8 people** remained separate.

In Luke 18:8, Jesus wonders if He will find anyone faithful on the earth when He returns. In Rev. 3:4, there are only a "few" in the church that will walk with Jesus in white. In the last church of the last days, Rev. 3:16, **there is no one!** The Lord says He will spit (vomit, in Greek) them out of His mouth.

In Rev. 18:4, during the 7 year tribulation period, some of the believers do not stay separate, but are involved with the Harlot, Babylon--the false church of that time. The voice from heaven warns them to "**come out of her**" (the Harlot false church) "**MY PEOPLE**" (the true believers) to avoid the discipline of their disobedience.

You may be in a "Christian" church that has a false gospel, no gospel, or unbiblical doctrines right now! Or you may know other believers who are in error. You must be faithful and gracious to provide the biblical information exposing their errors, and explain why you must obey God's commands and separate from them if they continue in error. If they are reasonable and teachable, you need to be willing to spend the time necessary to correct them, in obedience to the following verses:

*“If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that **BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED**. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. (Matthew 18:15-17)*

“And the Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God will grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of truth, ” (II Tim. 2.24, 25)

"And yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother." (II Thess. 3:15)

We pray this bible study will help you understand your responsibility as a Christian to obey God's commands in this area of **SEPARATION**.

GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE

Read II Tim. 3:16,17

In vs. 16, what does "All Scripture" refer to? _____
Who gave the Scriptures to man? _____ The Bible teaches that Jesus is God in flesh. Could we say that the whole Bible is Jesus' words? _____ In vs. 16, what is the purpose of the Scriptures? _____
In vs. 17, what do Jesus' words equip us for? _____

Read John 14:21-24

Do you love Jesus? _____ In vs. 21, what will a person be doing if they love Jesus? _____ In vs. 23, if you love Jesus what will you do? _____
What does it mean to "keep His word?" _____
In vs. 24, what if you do not "keep His word?" _____

Read James 1:22-25

In vs. 22, if you know what the Bible says and refuse to do it, what kind of person are you? _____ In vs. 25, if you do what the Scriptures say, what will happen to you? _____

SEPARATION FROM UNBELIEVERS

UNBELIEVERS -- those who do not believe that Jesus is Creator God, equal to His Father, or they do not believe that forgiveness from hell is a one time, irrevocable free gift of grace, by faith in Jesus' suffering alone!

Read II Cor. 6:14-18

These Scriptures give us commands in regard to our relationship with unbelievers. Vs. 14 says, "Do not be _____ with unbelievers." What do you think this means? _____

In vss, 14-16, list the five words used as examples of being "bound together." _____

Following are people, and groups a Christian should not be bound with: unsaved fiance, unsaved business partner, public school, A.A., Catholicism, and Mormonism. Can you think of any others? _____ Are you involved in any of those? _____

In vs. 17, what does the Lord command you to do when you are in one of those situations? _____

What will the Lord do if you do this, vss.16 and 18? _____

What happens if you' refuse to obey these commands? _____

What does the Bible call disobedience to the Lord's commands? _____

SEPARATION FROM SINNING CHRISTIANS

Read Luke 17:3

What should we do with a Christian who sins? _____

If he repents? _____ If he doesn't repent? _____

Read Prov. 27:5,6

What is better? _____ What is faithful? _____

Read Matt. 18:15-17

If a Christian continues in sin and will not listen to you, your brothers nor the church, according to vs. 17, how does Jesus tell us to treat that brother or sister? _____ What does that mean? _____ In 11 Thess. 3:14, what should we do about a sinning Christian? _____ What is true about you if you refuse to do what the Lord commands in Matt.18:15-17 and 11 Thess. 3:14? _____ What must we also do in 11 Thess. 3:15? _____ In I John 5:2,3 what is genuine love? _____

Read John 5:7-14

What is Jesus' warning in vs. 14? _____ In John 8:11, what is Jesus' warning to the adulterous woman? _____ What do you think Jesus would warn us? _____

CHRISTIANS WITH FALSE DOCTRINE

Read Romans 16:17,18

What are the sins of "those" Christians in vs. 17? _____ List four or more examples of teachings in Christian churches today that are "contrary to the teaching you have learned" from the Bible. _____

In vs. 17, what two things are we told to do about a brother or a sister who continues in these sins? _____ In vs. 18, what are these Christian slaves of? _____ And what will they do if you do not obey vs. 17? _____ What could happen to you, if you do not obey this command of God? _____

Read I Tim. 4:1-6

How does vs. 1 apply to the command we just read in Rom. 16:17?

What are the false doctrines in vs. 3? _____

_____ Some churches teach these false doctrines by demanding abstinence from alcohol and forbidding marriage to those whose spouse divorced them, contrary to God's word. List other examples of false doctrines: _____

How does vs.6 encourage us? _____

Do you consider yourself a "good servant"? _____

Read Col. 2:16,20-21

What should we not do? _____

Read II Tim. 4:1-4 What are we commanded to do in vs.2? _____

What does God predict will happen in the end times in vs.3? _____

What will they also do in vs.4? _____

How does this apply to what we saw earlier in Rom.16:17-18?

How does **II Thess. 3:14-15** apply to Christians with false doctrine? _____

SINNING CARNAL CHRISTIANS

Read I Cor. 5:1-13

In verse 1, what is the sin of this Christian in the Corinthian Church? _____

In vs.3, what had the Apostle Paul already done with this man? _____

What else had the Apostle done in vs.5? _____

What word is used for sinning Christians in vss.6-8? _____

What should we do about it in vs.7? _____

Who should we not associate within vs.11? _____

List the sins a Christian should not be involved with in vs. 11 _____

Is this a complete list? __What other sins might a Christian fall into? _____

What are we not to do with a sinning Christian in vs. 11? _____

What are we to do with a sinning Christian in vs. 13? _____

JUDGING

Read I Cor. 5:12

Who are Christians supposed to judge? _____

What had Paul already done in vs.3? _____

Read I Cor. 6:1-5

What was the shame of the Christians in vs.5? _____

Why must we learn to judge correctly now, vss. 2-3? _____

Read I Cor. 11:13-15

What should we be able to do in vs. 13? _____

Read Matt. 7:1-5

According to vs.4, when should we not judge? _____

In vs.5, when can we judge? _____

Read I John 1:9, Gal. 6:1

How do we get the log out of our eye? _____

Read Luke 12:57

What does Jesus question? _____

Read John 7:24

How does Jesus command us to judge? _____

UNRULY CHRISTIANS

Read II Thess. 3:6

How are we told to respond to an unruly brother? _____

What does that mean? _____

What does "unruly" mean? _____

What should Christians live according to? _____

What are the traditions received from the Apostles? _____

Read II Thess. 3:14

Why should we obey the instructions of the Apostles' letters? _____

How should we treat a Christian who does not obey the Apostles' letters? _____ For what purpose? _____

What is the balance in vs. 15? _____

Read II Peter 1:20-21

Where did the Apostles get their information for their letters? _____

Read Titus 3:9-11

What kind of controversies are we to avoid in vs. 9? _____
_____ Why? _____

In vs. 10, what are we to do with a Christian who continues to argue about these things? _____ In vs. 11, what is that Christian's real problem? _____

ASSOCIATING WITH UNBELIEVERS

In **11 Cor. 6:14-16**, we are commanded to "NOT be bound together with UNBELIEVERS." That means no **PARTNERSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, HARMONY, COMMON, or AGREEMENT** with them. Yet, in **I Cor. 5:9-10**, we are told we can associate with them; because to get away from them we would have to _____.

ASSOCIATION represents a shallow, casual, mixing or mingling with the unbelievers while not compromising, bringing doubt or reproach to your Christian testimony and Biblical principles.

List some situations where you may be associating with unbelievers, but not fellowshiping or being bound together with them.

NOT ASSOCIATING WITH SINNING CHRISTIANS

The earlier verses we studied concerning sinning Christians, makes it very clear that **GOD COMMANDS US** to **NOT ASSOCIATE** with them. We are to reject them, keep aloof from them, remove them from your midst, and turn away from them. Yet if they are teachable, we are to "...not regard them as an enemy, but admonish them as a brother." Many Christians refuse to obey the Lord Jesus Christ's commands concerning **SEPARATION**. How about you? Perhaps you did not know these verses before, but now you do. I pray that you would be an obedient Christian so God can bless you with answered prayers, bearing fruit, having joy, and being Jesus' friend