

THE EMERGING CHURCH

PROVERBS 22:3 AND OTHER

Text: Proverbs 22:3

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³ *A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.*

Introduction:

We are witnessing a widespread collapse of separation. And though most groups are compromising my concern this evening is what I see happening within our ranks – Independent Baptist Churches.

The doctrine of biblical separatism is being rejected at breathtaking speed and the bridges that are subsequently built to the “broader church” are resulting in spiritual corruption.

The Bible has much to say on the subject of separation and its principle.

Note:

In the very first book of the Bible separation is seen through God’s division of “the light from darkness.”

Genesis 1:4

⁴ And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

This separation of light from darkness reminds us of God Himself given in 1 John 1:5-7.

1 John 1:5-7

⁵ This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

On the second day God divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament.

Genesis 1:7

⁷ And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

On the third day the earth brought forth grass and herb yielding seed **after his kind**, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, **after his kind**.

Genesis 1:11

¹¹ *And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.*

In Deuteronomy 22:9 notice:

Deuteronomy 22:9

⁹ *Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with divers seeds: lest the fruit of thy seed which thou hast sown, and the fruit of thy vineyard, be defiled.*

Peter refers to this principle:

1 Peter 1:23

²³ *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

The truth of mixing seed will produce unacceptable fruit and mixing spiritual truth and error will produce unacceptable or bad fruit as well.

Deuteronomy 22:10

¹⁰ *Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together.*

We see in the New Testament the following of this principle.

2 Corinthians 6:14-17

¹⁴ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶ And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

While it has always been necessary for God's people to keep themselves separate from evil, many ignore the principle of separation entirely. Others go to the opposite extreme and separate unnecessarily over minor points of interpretation and custom.

Separation is not isolation but rather insulation.

There three different types or classification of separation.

- Primary Separation

2 Corinthians 6:17

¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean

thing; and I will receive you,

Romans 12:1-2

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.*

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.*

This is separation to God from the world.

- Secondary Separation

2 Thessalonians 3:6

⁶ *Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.*

- Full Separation

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15

¹⁴ *And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.* ¹⁵ *Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.*

1 Corinthians 5:11-13

¹¹ *But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.* ¹² *For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?* ¹³ *But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.*

Romans 16:17-18

¹⁷ *Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.* ¹⁸ *For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.*

1 Timothy 6:20-21

²⁰ *O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:* ²¹ *Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.*

Why is this necessary?

Because

- They Identify You

That's why I don't attend or preach at certain churches.

That's why I don't attend seminars held by people who are not Bible believing, and have as their speakers or instructors who don't practice separation.

- They Influence You

That's a given.

Illustration:

I was speaking to a pastor recently who had taken a mission trip to the Philippians. As he was telling me about the trip he stated something that I thought was an amazing thought. He stated that the churches that he had visited had no outside influence. All that they knew was that which had been taught to them from their pastor or the Bible College there.

He stated that they don't strive for the THINGS that churches in America strive to have.

Most of their buildings are built from bamboo, and sheet of metal for a roof. As they grow they just extend the bamboo and the roof.

- They Are Inspired By You

Your approval by your company encourages them to believe they can be pragmatic with doctrine and still have fellowship with God's people.

May we be like those found in Revelation 2:

Revelation 2:1-3

¹ Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; ² I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: ³ And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

Revelation 2:6

⁶ But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

I think that we can see the steps of compromise which eventually leads to apostasy.

Turn to Judges 8

1. THE APOSTASY OF AN UNTHANKFUL PEOPLE (SEE JUDGES 8:33-34)

God had given Gideon a great victory w/ just 300 men, trumpets and torches and clay pitchers. You'd think Israel would be so grateful that they would never again turn against God.

Judges 8:33-34

³³ And it came to pass, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel turned again, and went a whoring after Baalim, and made Baalberith their god. ³⁴ And the children of Israel remembered not the LORD their God, who had delivered them out of the hands of all their enemies on every side:

They remembered not the Lord – what a sad verse.

Today we see many who have only a form of godliness.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

¹ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

There are 4 effects of apostasy on American culture:

- Has normalized that which is abnormal
- Has desensitized us to that which should shock us

Jeremiah 6:15

¹⁵ Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 8:12

¹² Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

- Has legitimized that would should be illegitimate
- Has stigmatized anything good and Godly

2. THE ARROGANCE OF AN UNGODLY LEADER (JUDGES 9:1-4)

Judges 9:1-4

¹ And Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem unto his mother's brethren, and communed with them, and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying, ² Speak, I pray you, in the ears of all the men of Shechem, Whether is better for you, either that all the sons of Jerubbaal, which are threescore and ten persons, reign over you, or that one reign over you? remember also that I am your bone and your flesh. ³

And his mother's brethren spake of him in the ears of all the men of Shechem all these words: and their hearts inclined to follow Abimelech; for they said, He is our brother. ⁴ And they gave him threescore and ten pieces of silver out of the house of Baalberith, wherewith Abimelech hired vain and light persons, which followed him.

Chapter 9:1-4 tells us about Abimelech. To sum it up, he says, "Should we have many leaders or just one?" He is nominating himself, knowing they will go along with it. He takes power from the people and places it all on himself. Sound familiar?

A. He Bought His Brethern (vs. 4)

Judges 9:4

⁴ And they gave him threescore and ten pieces of silver out of the house of Baalberith, wherewith Abimelech hired vain and light persons, which followed him.

B. He Built Upon Blood (vs. 5)

Judges 9:5

⁵ And he went unto his father's house at Ophrah, and slew his brethren the sons of Jerubbaal, being threescore and ten persons, upon one stone: notwithstanding yet Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left; for he hid himself.

C. He Basked in Blasphemy (vs. 6)

Judges 9:6

⁶ And all the men of Shechem gathered together, and all the house of Millo, and went, and made Abimelech king, by the plain of the pillar that was in Shechem.

That pillar was the place where God made His covenant with Abraham...a holy place! Abimelech is trying to have it both ways, and has his inauguration at a holy site, making a farce of the God he rejected in practice.

Not only do we see the Apostasy of an Unthankful People and the Arrogance of an Ungodly Leader but also:

3. THE APATHY OF AN UNCOMMITTED PEOPLE (JUDGES 9:8-15)

Judges 9:8-15

⁸ The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree, Reign thou over us. ⁹ But the olive tree said unto them, Should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honour God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees? ¹⁰ And the trees said to the fig tree, Come thou, and reign over us. ¹¹ But the fig tree said unto them, Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees? ¹² Then said the trees unto the vine, Come thou, and reign over us. ¹³ And the vine said unto them, Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees? ¹⁴ Then said all the trees unto the bramble, Come thou, and reign over us. ¹⁵ And the bramble said unto the trees, If in truth ye anoint me king over you, then come and put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon.

Here's the parable of the trees in a nutshell: Each of the trees said "No, I don't want to lead, let someone else." So the people turned to the bramble bush for

leadership and the bush agreed, and said, "You can rest under my shade."

The irony is; it has no shade!

So when all the other trees forsook the call of duty, the people settled for what they got.

Close:

Proverbs 22:3

³ A prudent *man* foreseeeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.