

Series: Words of Counsel and Correction

MARKS OF THE LORD JESUS

2 CORINTHIANS 6

Text: 2 Corinthians 6:17 & Galatians 6:17

Galatians 6:17

¹⁷ From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

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,

Introduction:

Each of us should be bearing the marks of the Lord. There are many marks that should be presently visible.

There are too many to mention them all but here are just a few: Kind, Gentle, Forgiving, demonstrating Self Control, Honest, Pure, and Holy.

And as I stated there are many, many more but another is what we consider this evening. The mark of separation. This mark has become an issue that has caused some great tumult in our day. However a close examination of the Bible; one should never question

whether or not that separation is indeed an option but is something that is expected.

The Bible uses separate or a form of the word 97 times.

To better understand this it's important that we have an understanding of the types of separation.

Note these types of separation:

- Primary Separation (2 Corinthians 6:17, Rom 12:1-2)

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.

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,

- Secondary Separation (2 Thessalonians 3:6)

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)

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.

These are the types of separation that we find in God's Word.

Now let's consider some thoughts about separation:

Note:

1. THE COMMAND FOR SEPARATION (VSS. 14, 17)

2 Corinthians 6:14

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

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,

Many approach separation like they approach a meal at a restaurant. They look at the menu and choose the selections that they want.

Many look at separation and want to choose if it's for them.

Understand separation from the world is a command not a suggestion or an option for the Christian life.

Notice;

- The Command Involving Connections – “Be Not Unequally yoked together with unbelievers”

The words "*unequally yoked together*" are translated from one Greek word which is a combination of two Greek words, that mean another/different and yoke.

Many feel that this speaks about marriage which it certainly does but this principle goes beyond marriage.

It deals with every aspect of our lives.

Notice not only the Command Involving Connections but also:

- The Command Involving Company – “Come Out From Among Them, and Be Ye Separate, Saith the Lord”

The evil and powerful influence of ungodly places, people and practices is too great and perilous for the believer to fraternize with.

Believers live in the world, but should not be intimate with the unholy world or it will defile their character and quickly.

Notice also:

- The Command Involving Curiosity – “Touch Not the Unclean Thing”

“Touch not” says to stay as far away from evil as you can.

Do not even touch it.

Satan would snare us with a touch; for once you touch, you often keep going until you embrace.

Touching may seem so innocent.

It speaks of curiosity.

It is like the curiosity that causes a person to have a tendency to touch products on the shelves and tables in stores.

Note not only the Command for Separation but also:

2. THE CAUSE FOR SEPARATION (VSS.14-16)

2 Corinthians 6:14-16

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.

The cause for the commands on separation are given by Paul. They are given in five questions, all of which emphasize the great difference between faith and unbelief and the illogicalness of their association and union. We have divided the five questions into three categories as the five questions overlap a great deal in meaning.

The cause for the commands on separation are given by Paul. They are given in five rhetorical questions, all of which emphasize the great difference between faith and unbelief and the illogicalness of their association and union. We have divided the five questions into three categories as the five questions overlap a great deal in meaning.

- No communion

2 Corinthians 6:14

¹⁴ *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for **what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?** and what communion hath light with darkness?*

Opposites do not have good fellowship because they have little in common, and here they also oppose each other.

- No concord.

2 Corinthians 6:15-16

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.*

These questions attack the mixing of true and false religions.

It tells the fundamentalists to stay away from the ecumenical crowd.

Why join with those with whom you will have no agreement in the most important areas of life?

The apostates have no concord with fundamentalists.

- No congruity

2 Corinthians 6:15

*¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or **what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?***

Faith and unbelief are not part of the same product.

They have no relationship whatsoever.

They are not the same kind.

They are made out of different material.

Note not only the Command and Cause for Separation but lastly:

3. THE COMPENSATIONS OF SEPARATION (VSS.17-18)

2 Corinthians 6:17-18

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, ¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Separation from the things of the world has some wonderful compensations.

Note a few:

- Favor From God

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,**

The word translated "*receive*" means "to receive into favor or communion."

Favor from God is the greatest favor of all.

Men fraternize with the world in order to be accepted by the world and to be favored by them.

Believers should rather, in their conduct, cultivate acceptance and approval with God and the favor of God.

Notice not only Favor From God but also the benefit of:

- Fellowship With God

2 Corinthians 6:18

¹⁸ And **will be a Father unto you**, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

This is not speaking of salvation. We do not obtain salvation by separation from the world.

But separation does indeed promote our fellowship with God so that we sense in a wonderful and delightful way the presence of God as a loving, compassionate Father.

Those who do not separate from the world often complain that God seems so far off and they do not sense the sweet blessed presence of God in their lives.

They have little if any fellowship with God through prayer and the study of God's Word.

Close:

Applications:

1. Separation is a command and not an option.
2. Obedience is the only basis for fellowship.

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.

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.

Psalm 119:63

⁶³ I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.

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.

This is to be carried out not with a holier than thou attitude or a mean spirit.

Separation without love is just another false religion a religion of hate!

3. Separation is often a place of loneliness.

2 Timothy 4:16-18

¹⁶ At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. ¹⁷ Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. ¹⁸ And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Remember God becomes real in the place of loneliness

4. One of the greatest benefit of separation is we are liberated from the opinions of men, and liberated from the compulsion to look successful in the eyes of men.

One who is properly separated has a goal of being acceptable to God and not men.