

TAKE AWAY THE DROSS

PROVERBS 25:4-5

Text: Proverbs 25:4-5

Proverbs 25:4-5

⁴Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer. ⁵Take away the wicked *from* before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.

Introduction:

These verses deal with a rarely discussed doctrine – the doctrine of separation.

Though this subject is preached very sparsely, it should be emphasized because the God’s Word has a lot to say about it.

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

Genesis 1:4

⁴And 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 is mixing seed will produce unacceptable fruit and mixing spiritual truth and error will produce unacceptable or bad fruit as well.

Again notice in Deuteronomy 22:

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.

Notice:

1. THE CALL

Because there are two great currents of influence in the world, and they are diametrically opposed to each other.

They are the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Remember the purpose of God and the god of this age is vastly different.

There is a great push today to be just like the world, to think like the world, act like the world, and look like the world thinking that will help us reach the world.

But that which will reach the world is not our own found in our vision or imagination, programs, promotions, or our personalities, the Lord gives us the answer.

John 12:32

³² And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me.

Lifted up on the cross; lifted up from the grave, lifted back up to Heaven and now we must lift Him up in our

preaching and teach, and each and every day of our lives.

We must remember:

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. THE CLASSIFICATIONS

There three different types or classification of separation.

A. 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.

B. 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.

C. 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.

But may this be done not because of duty alone, but out of devotion to our Lord.

Revelation 2:4

⁴ Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

3. THE CAUSE

What are the reasons for separation? As we have already seen the principle of separation was established at the time of creation.

Other reasons include:

A. The Character of God

- God is Holy – separated from all that defiles

Leviticus 11:44-45

⁴⁴For I *am* the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I *am* holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. ⁴⁵For I *am* the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I *am* holy.

1 Peter 1:15

¹⁵But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

- God is Jealous – for His people

He is jealous for His people, He want them all to Himself, separated from all others.

Exodus 20:5

⁵Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of

them that hate me;

Exodus 34:14

¹⁴ For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name *is* Jealous, *is* a jealous God:

Zechariah 8:2

² Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury.

- God is Zealous – for His Reputation

Psalms 23:3

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Ezekiel 20:9

⁹ But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, among whom they *were*, in whose sight I made myself known unto them, in bringing them forth out of the land of Egypt.

Ezekiel 39:25

²⁵ Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name;

Isaiah 48:11

¹¹ For mine own sake, *even* for mine own sake, will I do *it*: for how should *my name* be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another.

Acts 9:15

¹⁵ But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

Romans 1:5

⁵ By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

- God is a God of Light – Light and Darkness cannot Mix

1 John 1:5

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.

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?

- God is a God of Truth – Truth and Error Cannot Mix

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

1 John 4:5-6

⁵ They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. ⁶ We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

- God is Righteous – He loves Righteousness and Hates Iniquity

Hebrews 1:9

⁹ Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore

God, *even* thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

2 Timothy 2:19

¹⁹ Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Habakkuk 1:13

¹³ *Thou art* of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, *and* holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth *the man that is* more righteous than he?

B. The Word of God

Amos 3:3

³ Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Ephesians 5:11

¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.

Romans 16:17

¹⁷ Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

1 Timothy 6:3-5

³ If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; ⁴ He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, ⁵ Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

2 John 1:9-10

⁹ Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him God speed:

1 John 4:1

¹ Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

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,

3 John 1:11

¹¹ Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

Titus 3:10

¹⁰ A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;

2 Chronicles 19:2

² And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore *is* wrath upon thee from before the LORD.

2 Timothy 3:3-5

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.

Psalm 1:1-3

¹ Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ² But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

2 Corinthians 7:1

¹ Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:22

²² Abstain from all appearance of evil.

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

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.

1 Corinthians 5:6

⁶ Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

1 Corinthians 5:13

¹³ But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

2 Timothy 2:21

²¹ If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, *and* prepared unto every good work.

C. The Protection of the Congregation

Corruption and impurity spreads easily in a "body"

Impurity needs to be removed... "cut off"... like gangrene.

1 Corinthians 5:6-7

⁶ Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? ⁷ Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

1 Corinthians 5:13

¹³ But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

1 Corinthians 15:33

³³ Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

2 Timothy 2:16-17

¹⁶ But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. ¹⁷ And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenæus and Philetus;

Psalm 1:1-2

¹ Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the

ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ² But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalm 106:35-42

³⁵ But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works.
³⁶ And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them. ³⁷
Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, ³⁸
And shed innocent blood, *even* the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood. ³⁹ Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions. ⁴⁰ Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance. ⁴¹ And he gave them into the hand of the heathen; and they that hated them ruled over them. ⁴² Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their hand.

4. THE CONCLUSION

The results of separation are:

A. Often a place of loneliness

But we must remember that we are drawn closer to God in the places 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.

B. Liberated from the opinions of men and
liberated from the compulsion to look successful
in the eyes o men.

Close:

The term “separation” can come across as harsh, uncaring, and unloving therefore we must be careful that our attitude is right toward others and there isn’t an attitude of superiority but rather an attitude of humility.

True biblical separation is a matter of love: a love for God that rejects the world system, a love for the church that will not tolerate false teachers who desire to lead the sheep astray and to devour them, and a love for the Christian brother—a love that is willing to endure even a break in fellowship in order to provoke him to do right.

In practicing separation the Christian should not become frustrated, vindictive, or mean.

They should not be hasty to condemn others on the basis of unproven rumors.

We should demonstrate a godly patience because we know that God will eventually judge all ungodliness

Jude 1:14-15

¹⁴ And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,
¹⁵ To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

As we read in our text:

Proverbs 25:4-5

⁴ Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer. ⁵ Take away the wicked *from* before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.

In removing the dross or impurities from the silver it leaves a vessel for the finer.

In removing wicked counselors from the king, it results will be a wise and beneficial government.