

A Separated Life

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Key Verse: (2 Corinthians 6:17) “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.”

Some people feel that we do not need to be Christ-like or in other words a holy people. However, the Scriptures say... (Hebrews 12:14) “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”

Some say that Jesus never meant for His church to be about rules, regulations, and guilt. However the Scriptures say...

(2 Timothy 2:5) “And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.”

(Matthew 28:20) “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

(Acts 2:37-38) “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? (38) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Separation

We are to be a separate people because we are: The Temple of God, The People of God, and The Children of God.

(2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1-NKJV) “Be all of you not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion has light with darkness? (15) And what concord has Christ with Belial? or what part has he that believes with an infidel? (16) And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? for all of you are the temple of the living God; as God has 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 all of you separate, says the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. (18) And will be a Father unto you, and all of you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty. (7:1) 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.”

We are a separate people for a higher purpose in our lives. To be like Jesus. To see Him! We become more like Jesus when we cleanse ourselves both inside and outside. As we learn more about Jesus, we then can grow to be more like Him. To be like Jesus is a growth process. (2 Peter 3:18) “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

Definition of Holiness

For God: He is absolute in perfection and purity. (Hebrews 7:26) “For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens.”

For Humans: We are to conform to His character and will. (Philippians 2:5) “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

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Conforming to be Christ-Like is twofold: #1. separation (sanctification) from, and #2. dedication to. Areas of separation are: attitude, thoughts, stewardship of the body, the tongue, the eye, appearance, and amusement.

Dedication for an intimate relationship with God. (Exodus 33:13-23-NKJV) “Now therefore, I pray you, if I have found grace in your sight, show me now your way, that I may know you, that I may find grace in your sight: and consider that this nation is your people. (14) And he said, My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest. (15) And he said unto him, If your presence go not with me, carry us not up behind. (16) For wherein shall it be known here that I and your people have found grace in your sight? is it not in that you go with us? so shall we be separated, I and your people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth. (17) And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that you have spoken: for you have found grace in my sight, and I know you by name. (18) And he said, I plead to you, show me your glory. (19) And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. (20) And he said, You can not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. (21) And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and you shall stand upon a rock: (22) And it shall come to pass, while my glory passes by, that I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and will cover you with my hand while I pass by: (23) And I will take away mine hand, and you shall see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.”

Holiness is the basis for God’s miraculous deliverance. (Joshua 3:5) “And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the Lord will do wonders among you.”

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