

=BIBLE DOCTRINES=

Lesson 8 Separation

AIM: to teach my pupils what the Bible says about separation from the world.

POINT OF CONTACT: Ask the pupils how many different kinds of material they can find in their clothing. For example, they may name silk, wool, cotton, nylon, etc. Then tell them this was unlawful according to the Old Testament. Then tell them it was unlawful for the Jews to mix materials according to the Old Testament, and the reason was they were teaching Bible separation.

- I. THE BIBLE PRINCIPLE OF SEPARATION. Throughout the entire Bible is taught the principle of separation from the world on the part of God's people. Let us notice some of these marks of separation.
 1. The Jews were not allowed to eat pork, catfish, etc. (Leviticus 11:7, 10) This was not because pork and catfish were wrong, but this was simply a mark whereby they were distinguished from the Gentiles. God was simply teaching that His people should be separate from the heathen or unsaved people and that there should be a difference. This does not mean that we are not to eat catfish, pork, etc. now, for we are commanded plainly in the Bible not to observe the Jewish laws of eating, and we are told that every creature of God is good for food. (I Timothy 4:4) However, the doctrine of separation is still true.
 2. The Jew was not allowed to plant two kinds of seed in one vineyard. (Deuteronomy 22:9) When a Jew started to sow his crop, he had to remember that God had said, "Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with divers seeds." This is picturing the fact again that God does not want a mixing of seeds. In other words, a Christian is to be separate from the world. Let us apply this spiritually. The Bible says that seed is the Word of God. This means that in Christian work we are not to sow two kinds of seed. This plainly teaches that the message of the liberal and the message of the fundamentalist should not be united.
 3. A Jew was not allowed to hitch an ox and a donkey together. (Deuteronomy 22:10) When a Jewish man hitched up his team, he was reminded of separation. He would think, "God commands me not to plow with a mixed team. I can plow with two donkeys or I can plow with two oxen, but I cannot mix them together." This was because God wanted the Jew not to mix with the world. A spiritual truth is found here also. The ox in the Bible represents a true preacher of the Gospel. The donkey represents a false prophet. God does not want His true preachers and liberals cooperating in a spiritual endeavor.
 4. The Jew could not wear two different materials in the same garment. (Deuteronomy 22:11) This also was to teach separation. Every time a Jew put on his clothes, he was reminded that he was to be a different person, separate from the world. To be sure, this does not mean that we, as New Testament Christians, are to observe these national laws of Israel, but we are to be reminded by them that God's people have always been a separate people.
- II. THE TRAGEDIES IN THE BIBLE THAT CAME UPON GOD'S PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF SEPARATION.
 1. Samson. This is the man about whom it is said perhaps more than any other man in the Bible, "The Spirit of the LORD came upon him." He courted a Philistine woman, married outside the people of God and courted outside the people of God. This caused him to lose his power. (Let us teach our young people here of the danger of courting those who are not God's people.)
 2. Solomon. In I Kings 11:4, 5, we find that which turned Solomon's heart away from God. He married unsaved women, and this thing cost him his power and blessing. Nehemiah rebuked the Jews for marrying unsaved women; he mentioned Solomon in his rebuke. (Nehemiah 13:23-27)
 3. The flood. This event was caused by lack of separation on the part of God's people. (Genesis 6:1-7)
 4. Peter. This disciple drifted away from God because he broke God's law of separation when he sat down to warm by the fire of the wicked people. (John 18:15-18)
 5. Balaam. Here is another who lost the blessings of God upon his life because he went to the land and became mixed with heathen people. Heartbreak will always come when people break the law of God concerning separation.
- III. FROM WHAT ARE WE TO BE SEPARATED?
 1. Unbelievers. (II Corinthians 6:14a) This means that a Christian should not enter into any organization whereupon he would bind himself to an unbeliever. This of necessity would include the joining of an organization, the joining of a church, marriage with an unbeliever, or any other union that would bind us, as a yoke would bind a team of horses, to an unbeliever or unbelievers.

2. Unrighteousness. II Corinthians 6:14b, “for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?” This would mean that we should be separate from unrighteousness, that we should not participate in things that are definitely unrighteous. This would include such things as drinking, smoking, gambling, etc.
3. Darkness. (II Corinthians 6:14c) The Christian is to have no fellowship with the works of darkness.
4. Idols. (II Corinthians 6:16a)

IV. WHAT ARE WE TO DO ABOUT THE ABOVE THINGS? In II Corinthians 6:17a, we are plainly commanded, “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord.” Then somebody says, “Well, I will not participate much; I will just do it a little bit.” God commands to you in the same verse: “...touch not the unclean thing....”

V. TESTS CONCERNING SEPARATION. To be sure, there are times when a Christian does not know exactly what is best to do. There are things that would seem right, and yet to others, they seem wrong. I suppose every consecrated Christian has a thing or two that he separates himself from that is peculiar to his own life. We must certainly have Christian grace and observe Christian charity in such cases. Following, however, are some tests to help each of us to know what is right and wrong to do.

1. Will it glorify God? Read I Corinthians 10:31. We have no right to do anything that would not glorify God. Here we are commanded that in everything we do, we are to glorify Him.
2. Is it doubtful? Read Romans 14:23. In this chapter the Apostle Paul has been talking especially about eating meat that has been offered to idols. Some of the people were bitterly against it; others were for it. The Apostle Paul said that in case of doubt, it is best not to participate. This is the safe thing to do, of course. If there is something one is in doubt about, he should not do it until all doubts are erased.
3. Will it hurt my testimony? There is nothing more important than reaching folks for Christ. We must be sure that we do nothing to keep people from salvation. Even if something is not basically wrong, if it would hurt our testimony with lost people, then we should not do it.
4. Will it disappoint those who have confidence in me? There are some areas and localities where certain things would be considered wrong, though they are not wrong in themselves. If it would cause someone to be disappointed in us and would hurt their Christian walk, then we would be very wise to not participate.
5. Do I believe it is the will of God for my life?
6. Will it help others?
7. Will it be a stumbling block for a weaker brother?

REVIEW AND UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS:

1. Name two things the Jews were commanded not to eat: K R O P and F C S I T A H.
2. A Jew was not allowed to plant two kinds of D E S E S in one vineyard.
3. A Jew was not allowed to wear a E T A R G M N of two different materials.
4. A Jew was not allowed to plow using an ox and a O Y K N D E together.
5. Below, you will find some names of people who met tragedy because of not being separated.
R E E P T O L O O S N M M A S O N S
6. Give as many tests of separation as possible. These are tests we should give ourselves as we decide what to do and what not to do.

MEMORY VERSE: II Corinthians 6:17b, “...touch not the unclean thing.”