

S Separation

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

The matter of “separation” is one of the distinguishing features of Bible-believing Baptists. It is a subject that has to do with the way we live, the way we conduct ourselves as a church — and, yes, it involves **standards!**

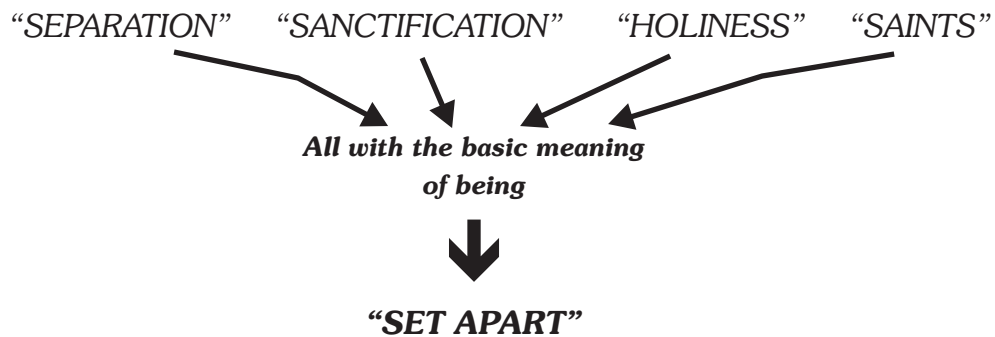
Any study such as this could quite easily simply become a list of “taboos” — but that is only part of what the Lord intends for His children and His churches. It is important to understand the principles involved as well as the practices outlined.

We are living in a world of rapidly declining moral and spiritual standards, and this decay is seriously affecting Christians and churches to the point that it is often difficult to tell Christians and non-Christians apart.

EXACTLY WHAT IS MEANT BY “SEPARATION?”

There are three facts for you to understand:

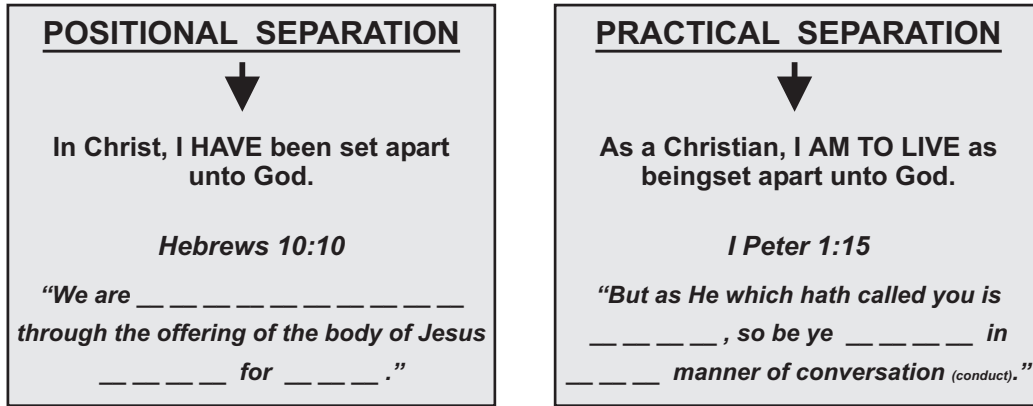
A. THERE ARE FOUR BIBLE WORDS HAVING THE SAME MEANING:



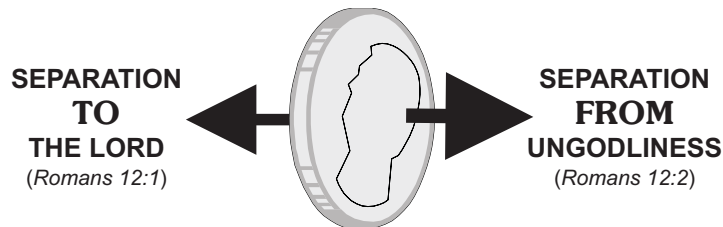
1. When we say that God is holy, that means He is “*set apart*” from all His creation in righteousness.
2. When we say the Bible is holy, we mean it is “*set apart*” from all other books.
3. When we are taught to sanctify the Lord in our hearts, this means we are to *set* God *apart* from idols.

— Remember this definition —

B. THERE ARE TWO ASPECTS TO SEPARATION IN YOUR LIFE:



C. THERE ARE TWO IMPORTANT FEATURES TO SEPARATION — two sides of the one coin:



WHAT IS THE BASIS OF PRACTICAL SEPARATION?

A. THE BASIS OF GOD’S NATURE:

I Peter 1:16 — “Be ye _____; for I am _____.”

B. THE BASIS OF REDEMPTION:

Read: *I Corinthians 6:19-20*. Complete the following:

1. “Ye are not _____.”
2. “Ye are _____ with a _____.”
3. “Therefore _____ God in your _____ and in your _____ which are _____.”

C. THE BASIS OF REGENERATION:

Look up: *II Corinthians 5:17*.

1. Born-again believer, those “in Christ” are described as being a ___ ___ ___ creature.
2. Old things (*ways, etc.*) have ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.

D. THE BASIS OF GOD’S WORD:

Scriptures such as *II Corinthians 6:17* plainly command us to “come out from among them and be ye ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.”

SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD

A. According to *John 15:19*, a believer is *IN* the world but is not to be ___ ___ the world, because the Lord has chosen us ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ the world.

Note: This does **not** mean we should enter a *cloistered* life and have nothing to do with anyone who is not saved.

B. According to *I John 2:15*, the believer is to “___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ the world, neither the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ that are ___ ___ the world.”

C. When the Bible speaks of “the world” in this sense, it does *NOT* mean the creation of God or His material provisions, etc. It refers to the “world system,” which is the dominion of Satan (*I John 5:19^b; II Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2*).

The bad connotation of “the world” is defined in *I John 2:16* as:

1. The ___ ___ ___ ___ of the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.
2. The ___ ___ ___ ___ of the ___ ___ ___ ___.
3. The ___ ___ ___ ___ of ___ ___ ___ ___.

D. *I John 2:17* teaches that doing the ___ ___ ___ ___ of God is the most important and the most enduring thing we can do.

E. According to *James 4:4*, worldliness is spiritual A ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.

F. *Romans 12:2* instructs us to be “not ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ to this world.”

G. *James 1:27* defines pure religion from a personal point of view as the Christian keeping himself or herself ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ from the world.

H. A worldly Christian is one given over to pleasing the “flesh,” the old sinful nature. The works of the flesh are listed in *Galatians 5:19-21*. Make a note of them below:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

SOME AREAS OF PERSONAL SEPARATION

A. THE THINGS I WILL ALLOW MY EYES TO SEE:

1. *Psalm 101:3* — “I will set _____ before mine eyes.”
2. Read: Job 31:1,7. Here we learn that Job made a C _____ with his eyes never to look upon evil.

This area of personal separation applies to many common practices, such as:

- **Watching Movies:**

Almost all Hollywood-style movies (even some rated for general exhibition) spew out violence, adultery, drunkenness, witchcraft, and all kinds of perverted and ungodly living. Christians ought not support this industry — either by frequenting movie theaters or watching their videos.

- **Watching Television:**

If you feel at liberty to own a TV set, the most important control is the “OFF” switch. The garbage that can be brought into your home, the laziness it promotes, the time it wastes, and the influence it exerts over young minds requires real wisdom and firm control. Believers will be better off without one.

- **Spending Time on the Internet, Social Media, and Gaming:**

Internet web sites and “chat rooms” can pose a real danger because they are virtually uncontrollable as to their content. Testimonies have been ruined because of internet pornography. Violent and devilish video games do much more than amuse.

- **Reading the Wrong Kinds of Books and Magazines:**

Pornographic publications should never be in the possession of a Christian. Beware of magazines with their horoscopes, worldly fashions, and “romance.”

B. THE PLACES I WILL ALLOW MYSELF TO GO:

Jesus may come at *any* moment, and we must be ready, and not to be ashamed, to meet him — *I John 2:28*. There are numerous places Christians ought not to frequent — the dance hall, the liquor outlets, the gambling establishments, etc. [The scriptural reasons as to “why” will be covered in Study #24.]

C. THE THINGS I WEAR:

The area of clothing is a difficult one for many believers, especially Christian women. This is because fashions go through cycles of extremes — from weird to conservative, from short-short to ankle length, from modest to provocative, etc.

The Bible does, however, give clear instruction in this area:

1. The fashion of the world “ _____ ” —
I Corinthians 7:31.
2. The standard for Christian women is _____ apparel —
I Timothy 2:9.
3. Bare thighs (that would be revealed when wearing short skirts and shorts) is equated with nakedness, according to *Isaiah 47:2-3.*
4. Short hair on women is a _____, according to *I Corinthians 11:6.*
 - a. The reason for this is because a woman’s hair is a token of her subjection to her husband and to God (*verse 15*).
 - b. Likewise, long hair on men is improper — *I Corinthians 11:14.*
5. **What about pants and slacks on women?**

It is very common to see the modern woman getting around in pants and slack suits. For Christian women this is unwise for the following reasons:

- a. The Bible teaches that God intends for men and women to be distinctly separate in appearance. Based on *Deuteronomy 22:5*, women should dress like ladies; men should dress like men.
- b. God made men and women sexually different but mutually attractive. Men are enticed by the sight of a woman’s body (hence the use of scantily clad females in advertising). When a woman wears any tight-fitting or low-cut clothing, the shape of her body is accentuated and more likely to influence a man’s thoughts. See: *Matthew 5:28; I Thessalonians 4:4-7* and *Proverbs 7:10.*
- c. The argument is often raised: “Slack-suits are women’s clothing,” which may be true from a world-fashion point of view. The problem is that when Christian women wears “fashionable” slacks, it easily “opens the door” to those who want to wear tight jeans.

D. THE THINGS I SAY:

1. *Ephesians 4:29* warns about _____ communication.
2. *Ephesians 5:19* admonishes a believer’s speech to be Christ-centered.
3. *Colossians 4:6* says our speech should always be with _____.

Note: *Every language has its curse words, and Christians should never use them! Never be heard using the precious Name of the Lord Jesus Christ (*Philippians 2:9*) or of God in careless speech.*

Euphemisms (words that are used in place of curse words and coarse speech, such as “Geez,” “By Jove,” “Gosh,” and “OMG,” etc.) should be avoided.

E. THE PEOPLE WITH WHOM I ASSOCIATE:

1. According to *Psalm 1:1*, a man is blessed when he walketh ___ ___ ___ in the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ of the U___ ___ ___ ___ ___.

2. According to *I Corinthians 5:11*, we are not to keep ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ with Christians who are worldly, backslidden, or under church discipline.

Note: There is a difference between “acquaintance” and “fellowship.” The Bible does not advocate completely ostracizing wayward brethren.

3. We should steer clear of the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ man — *Proverbs 22:24*.

4. Read: *Proverbs 9:6; 13:20; 14:7; 23:9*. We must avoid close associations with ___ ___ ___ ___ S. (Why? See: *Psalm 14:1; Proverbs 1:7; 12:15; 14:9*.)

5. We should never stop to listen to a ___ ___ ___ ___ ___-bearer. (See: *Proverbs 16:27-28; 18:8; 20:19; 26:20-22; II Thessalonians 3:11* and *I Timothy 5:13*.)

Note: The best way to handle a gossip is to say something such as: “Just a moment. Let’s both go to the person you are talking about, and we’ll hear what you have to say!”

SEPARATION IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIPS

A. *II Corinthians 6:14* warns the Christian against being unequally ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ together with ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.

B. The most important application of this principle is in marriage. It is both wrong and risky for a Christian to date or pursue marriage with an unsaved person. It is a sin for a Christian to marry a non-Christian.

Young Person: If you are desiring to be married (*Proverbs 18:22*), first pray and ask God to give you the partner of His choice; then look for God’s answer under the guidance of your parents and pastors, and in your church (or in other Baptist churches of like faith and order).

SEPARATION IN RELIGIOUS MATTERS

We are living in an ecumenical age where all religions and branches of Christendom are coming together in religious unity. When Bible-believing Baptists refuse to have any

part in the World Council of Churches, or fellowship with non-Baptist religious groups, or even work together with other Baptists, they are often called “narrow-minded,” “unloving,” “extremists,” etc. However:

- A. The Bible admonishes us to have “_____ with the _____ works of darkness” — *Ephesians 5:11*.
- B. *Amos 3:3* asks, “Can two walk together except they be _____?”
- C. *II John 9-10* states that we are to have no fellowship or part with those who abide not in the doctrine of _____.
- D. According to *Romans 16:17*, we are to _____ those which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the _____ which we have learned, and _____ them.

THREE EXCUSES CHRISTIANS OFTEN GIVE FOR NOT LIVING SEPARATED LIVES

A. OTHER CHRISTIANS DON'T HAVE YOUR STANDARDS:

Unfortunately, this is true. Many Christians see nothing wrong with rock music, worldly fashions, questionable amusements, etc., but that doesn't make it right!

It is important to study the Word of God and form Bible-based convictions; then live by them. Read: *James 4:17*. It is not a question of *OUR* standards, but God's!

B. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO WIN SOULS, AND TO DO THIS I HAVE TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE LOST:

No! It is more important to please the Lord. It is NEVER right to do wrong to accomplish a right!

In *I Thessalonians 5:22* we are instructed to “_____ from _____ of evil.”

C. I HAVE LIBERTY IN CHRIST:

1. This is certainly true, but Christian liberty is NOT *license*. Liberty is the freedom to do RIGHT — never the freedom to do anything we please!
2. We are not to use our liberty as an occasion to the _____ — *Galatians 5:13*.
3. Our liberty is not an excuse to engage in wrong or enslaving habits. We should avoid being brought under the _____ of any ungodly habit — *I Corinthians 6:12*.

4. Our liberty is in the area of things that E _____ — *I Corinthians 10:23*.
5. Our liberty is not an excuse for hiding sin or wrong-doing. It is not to be a _____ of _____ — *I Peter 2:16*.
6. Our liberty must never be a _____ to a weaker Christian — *I Corinthians 8:9,13*.

PRINCIPLES FOR LIVING A SEPARATED LIFE

Many questionable activities today are not specifically addressed in the Bible. These are activities such as smoking, using narcotics and other drugs, mixed swimming, etc. Here are some Bible principles or guidelines to consider when faced with a questionable practice:

A. IS IT SCRIPTURAL?

Does the Word of God have anything directly to say on the matter? Read: *Psalm 119:15,105*.

B. CAN I DO THIS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD?

Write out *Colossians 3:17*. _____

C. WILL OTHERS BE HINDERED IN THEIR SALVATION OR SPIRITUAL GROWTH BY WHAT I DO?

Read: *Romans 14:21*.

D. DO I HAVE SOME DOUBTS ABOUT IT?

A wise old saying: “When in doubt, don’t!” According to *Romans 14:22-23*, doubt is often a lack of _____.

E. WOULD WHAT I WANT TO DO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE LORD?

Read: *Ephesians 5:10*.

Always ask these questions: “**Can I take the Lord Jesus there?**” “**Would He join in with me?**” “**Would He do it?**” Answering them will solve most of your queries.

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *I Thessalonians 5:22*.