

Biblical Separation

IN THE World

Sin is all around us in the world, are we really expected to be separate from all sin?

1 Peter 1:14-17

As obedient children, **do not be conformed to the former lusts** which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, **be holy yourselves also in all YOUR behavior**; because it is written, "**You shall be holy, for I am holy.**"

1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.

What about having a relationship with an unbeliever, or becoming a partner in a business, etc.?

2 Cor 6:14-18

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said,

"I will dwell in them and walk among them;
And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.
"Therefore, **come out from their midst and be separate,**" says the Lord.
"And do not touch what is unclean;
And I will welcome you.
"And I will be a father to you,
And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,"
Says the Lord Almighty.

Eph 5:3-12

But **do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you**, as is proper among saints; and there must be **no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting**, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for **because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be PARTAKERS with them**; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. **And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them**; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret

IN the World **NOT OF** the World

John 17:11-16

"And I am no more in the world; and **yet they themselves are in the world**, and I come to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy name, the name which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are. While I was with them, I was keeping them in Thy name which Thou hast given Me; and I guarded them, and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy made full in themselves. I have given them Thy word; **and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world**. I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."

IN THE CHURCH

How are we to respond to doctrinal error (false teaching) in the Church and among the Saints?

1 Corinthians 10:5

{We are} **destroying speculations** and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and {we are} taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

Ephesians 4:14-15

As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of **doctrine**, by the **trickery** of men, by **craftiness in deceitful scheming**; but **speaking the truth** in love, we are to grow up in all {aspects} into Him, who is the head, {even} Christ,

1 Timothy 4:6-7

In **pointing out these things** to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, {constantly} nourished on the words of the faith and of the **sound doctrine** which you have been following. **But have nothing to do with** worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;

Ephesians 5:11-16

And **do not participate** in the **unfruitful deeds of darkness**, but instead even **expose them**; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Therefore **be careful how you walk**, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

Colossians 2:8

See to it that **no one takes you captive** through **philosophy** and **empty deception**, according to the **tradition of men**, according to the **elementary principles of the world**, rather than according to Christ.

Romans 14:22

The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not **condemn himself in what he approves**.

What are we to do when faced with unrepentant false teaching (also any continuous, unrepentant sin) within the body of Christ?

1 Timothy 6:3-5

If anyone advocates a **different doctrine**, and **does not agree with sound words**, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the **doctrine conforming to godliness**, he is conceited {and} understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

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2 Corinthians 6:14-17

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore, **come out from their midst and be separate**," says the Lord. "And do not

touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you.

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2 Timothy 3:1-5

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and **avoid such men as these**.

Revelation 2:1-3

'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that **you cannot endure evil men**, and **you put to the test** those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and **you found them to be false**;

Proverbs 4:14-15

Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not proceed in the way of evil men. **Avoid it, do not pass by it; turn away from it and pass on.**

2 John 8-11

Watch yourselves, that you might not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, **do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting**; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

1 Corinthians 5:9-13

I wrote you in my letter **not to associate with immoral people; I {did} not at all {mean} with the immoral people of this world**, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; **for then you would have to go out of the world**. But actually, I wrote to you **not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler-- not even to eat with such a one**. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within {the church} But those who are outside, God judges. **Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.**

Examples of Important Doctrine

(Or, What Doctrine Isn't Important?)

The Person and work of Christ The Gospel

2 Cor 11:3-4

But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. For if one comes and **preaches another Jesus** whom we have not preached, **or you receive a different spirit** which you have not received, **or a different gospel** which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.

The Word The Content and Literal Fulfillment of Prophecy

1 Tim 6:20-21

O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding **worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge"**-- which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith.

2 Tim 2:15-18

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling **accurately the word of truth**. But **avoid worldly and empty chatter**, for it will lead to further ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, **men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place**, and thus they upset the faith of some.

Biblical Truth Holy, Separated Living

1 Tim 6:3-5

If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

The Church

1 Tim 3:14-15

I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

Sin

Apostasy

2 Tim 3:2-5

For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these.

Are we, as individuals, ever supposed to separate from brothers and sisters in Christ?

1 Cor 5:11

But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler-- not even to eat with such a one.

2 Thess 3:6

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

Matt 18:15-17

"And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax-gatherer."