

Being Separate

"Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. 'I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters.'"

2 Corinthians 6:17-18

Without Light: Suppressing the Truth

- God Severed off the Darkness from the Light
 - Genesis 1:4 And God saw that the light was good. And God divided^{H914/H996} the light
 - H914: bâdal - separate, sever off utterly
 - H996: bêyn - distinction, establish boundary
 - from the darkness.^{H2823}
 - Darkness H2823 figuratively misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow, wickedness: - dark (-ness), night, obscurity.
 - Darkness H2821 withholding the light

Separated From Darkness Unto Light

- We have been called from darkness to the light
 - 1 Peter 2:9 (NIV): "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."
- God himself by His son has carried us to the light
 - He has delivered (rescued) us from the dominion (influence) of darkness and translated (carried) us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Col 1:13-14)

**Be not
Ashamed!**

Seeking the Approval of Man, or God?

- Issues Paul was dealing with in the present evil age..
 - Reintroducing the baser elements, Abusing their Christian liberty, issues with unity and siding with the flesh...
- Paul's statement to the believers...
 - I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel...and want to distort the gospel... (Gal 1:6-7)
 - Gal 1:10 ***For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God?***

Being Perfected by the **Flesh**?

- False teachers distorting the truth to avoid persecution
 - Gal 6:12 It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.
- Do we think that we can humanize the Gospel?
 - O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified...Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? (Gal 3:1-3)

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The Challenge of Tradition

- We cannot forsake the assembling of ourselves
 - Hebrews 10:24-25 instructs us not to forsake assembling together, as some are in the habit of doing, but to encourage one another, especially as the Day approaches.
- These are prescribed to keep us together
 - Act 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Improving our Ecclesial Model

- Focus on Christ as the Head of the Body
 - Ephesians 4:15 reminds us to grow in every way into Christ, who is the head of the body. Every decision, action, and teaching in the ecclesia should reflect the character and priorities of Jesus.
- Return to Preaching the Gospel
 - (Rom 10:13-18) For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?

Improving our Ecclesial Model

- Foster a Culture of Humility and Service
 - If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. (Joh 13:14-15)
- Teaching and Upholding Sound Doctrine
 - O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge," for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you. (1 Ti 6:20-21)

The Challenge of Judgement

- Are we told not to judge one another?
 - Mat 7:1 Judge not, that you be not judged.
- We are commanded to judge rightly, and spiritually
 - Joh 7:24 Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment
- We are commanded also to watch out for each other
 - Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing (reprove gently) one another in all wisdom,

Separated to the Body of Christ

- Called out of the World to by the Body of Christ
 - Rom 12:5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.
- We are meant to be together – to help one another
 - 1Co 12:15-17 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body

We are the Sheep of His Pasture

- We cannot separate from each other!
 - **Hebrews 10:22-25** Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith... Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another
- We must continue Fellowsheeping together
 - **Philippians 2:4** "Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others."

The Final Judgment: Separation

- One way or another – we will see separation
 - Matt 3:12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”
- The final separation of the righteous and the wicked
 - Matt 25:32-33 (NIV): "All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left."

**"For I am sure that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor rulers, nor things present
nor things to come, nor powers, nor height
nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of
God in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

Romans 8:38-39

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