

Table of Contents

Chapter 1.....	1
4 Parts To Holiness.....	1
Be Ye Separate	2

Chapter 1

2 Corinthians 6:16–7:1 (KJV)

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath 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 ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

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.

4 Parts To Holiness

Paul identifies 4 parts of holiness in this section. He specifically lists being separate from the rest of the world, touch not the unclean thing, cleansing ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, and doing all these in the fear of God.

We will take a look at each of these to not only help us understand what holiness is, but with this understanding, to apply it in our own lives.

Be Ye Separate

In this second letter to the church at Corinth, Paul is addressing the problem of believers engaging in idolatry. The problem of idolatry had been and remains a huge problem in man's relationship with God. God in no way approves of any form of idolatry. You either belong to Him or you do not belong to Him. We are reminded here that we are the temple of the living God. When we believed on Jesus for our salvation, the Holy Spirit came to dwell within us. God is always with us and will not share that time with anything that is contrary to His Word.

Idolatry is what those who are not believers engage in. While non-believers, by definition, do not believe in God, they do believe in something. Whether that something is a higher power, or simply that when they die, they just cease to exist. Any of these positions held by non-believers requires faith on their part. Not faith in God, like us, but faith in their own god or thoughts. It is all a matter of faith, as there is no proof of any of the thoughts or imaginations of man. We will only know for sure when we see Jesus. I speak this in faith.

God calls us to be separate; to come out from among them. This is not a new message to those God calls His own. Let's look at Scripture from the Old Testament as verification of this.

Exodus 33:11–17 (KJV)

11 And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

12 And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight.

13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation *is* thy people.

14 And he said, My presence shall go *with thee*, and I will give thee rest.

15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not *with me*, carry us not up hence.

16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? *is it* not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy 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 thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.

This is a clear example that Moses knew he and the Israelites were to be separate from the rest of the world. God was with them; He was their God. God told Moses he had found grace in His sight.

This comes as no surprise, either, because Moses had already maintained this idea of being separate from the world while he was doing the LORD's work in Egypt. Exodus 8 speaks of a time when Pharaoh was being dealt with by God for not permitting the Israelites to separate themselves from the sight of Pharaoh for even a short time, to worship God. Moses remained steadfast in his insisting they be permitted to go and worship God and God was pleased with Moses.

An even stronger example is presented in Exodus concerning Moses being separate from the world and belonging to the nation of Israel. Consider the following:

Exodus 2:11–12 (KJV)

11 And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren.

12 And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.

This brings up the fact that separating yourself from the world to be accepted of God is not popular with the world. The world hates us, but at the same time is unwilling to accept that we are commanded to be separate from them. As the saying goes, we are in the world, but we are not of the world. We must, even in the face of persecution, be separate from the world. It is required of us in order to be received by God.

One more example of the benefits of separating ourselves from the world is found in Daniel. Daniel 1:6 names 4 young men of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Sometimes better known as Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Daniel, and the other three, would not eat the food the king of Babylon provided them, but instead ate vegetables and drank water. They were being tested by the king's eunuch at this time and passed. They were also blessed by God in that God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom, and gave Daniel understanding of visions and dreams in addition to these. (Daniel 1:5 - 17).

God's word is very clear that we are not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers.

2 Corinthians 6:14 (KJV)

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

The questions posed here are rhetorical. There is no fellowship between righteousness and unrighteousness and there is no communion of light with darkness. In both cases they are the exact opposites of each other. While the world may believe in this idea of opposites attracting and therefore be brought together, God's word says they are not to be brought together no matter how much attraction there may be. God's word is so specific in this principle, that in his Law, even clean and unclean animals could not work together! Consider what is written in Deuteronomy 22:10 for example,

Deuteronomy 22:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together.

We live in this world, but the world does not have to live within us. Just because we are in the world, we are not required to do as the world does. God calls us to be separated from the world. We, as believers, can do this because of Jesus and our position within his body; his church. The gospel of John records the prayer of Jesus to the Father concerning them and us, also.

John 17:15–16 (KJV)

¹⁵ I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

As I said, this was his prayer for his disciples, but he included us who would become believers later in time.

John 17:20 (KJV)

²⁰ Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;