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DOCTRINE OF SEPARATION

There are obvious distinctions set forth in the word of God that are in no way, shape, or form comparable. There is no way in which they can become partners together, or have joint participation. II Cor 6:14-18 illustrates this principle very well. This portion of scripture speaks of two separate spheres. One sphere is in Christ, the other sphere is outside of Christ.

BELIEVER (One in Christ)		UNBELIEVER (One in the World)	
II Cor 6:14	Righteous - II Cor 5:21 Light - Eph 5:8	Unrighteous - Romans 3:10 Darkness - John 3:19, 20	
II Cor 6:15	Christ - II Cor 5:17 Believer - I John 5:12a	Belial - John 8:44 Unbeliever - I John 5:12b	
II Cor 6:16	Temple of God - I Cor 6:19, 20 Alive - Eph. 2:1a	Idol - II Cor 6:16 Dead - Eph 2:1b	

The believer is exhorted to live in the light of these distinctions and in keeping with that sphere to which he now belongs. Thus he is told in II Cor 6:17 to come out from among them and be ye separate saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing. He is referred to as a pilgrim and stranger passing through a foreign land. Because he no longer is of the world, Jesus promised His followers they would be hated of the world. John 15:18, 21 In the measure the believer is faithful to the Lord he will suffer persecution. I Cor 3:12 The believer is exhorted to love what God loves and hate what God hates. Psalms 97:10 "Ye that love the Lord, hate evil." True love "abhores that which is evil, and cleaves to that which is good." Romans 12:9. Superficial love tolerates sin, doctrinal error, and becomes involved in unscriptural practices.

Love rejoices in truth and does not support evil. I Cor 13:16

Love holds fast to sound doctrine. II Tim. 1:13

Love is discerning. Phil 1:9

Love reproves and exposes error. Eph. 5:11

The Lord Jesus reproved the money changers, and the religious clergy because of His love for the truth.

Paul in love reproved carnal believers, legalism, and Judiasm, in His letters to the churches.

John the Baptist lost his head for exposing the sin of Herod.

The reformers, because of their love for the truth, and justification by faith, opposed Rom...

DOCTRINE OF SEPERATION

Leonard A. Radtke

In our study of Seperation we have another key verse, it is Psalm 97:10.

Love is the key to Seperation, for in the measure I love truth, I hate error. In the measure I love righteousness, I will hate unrighteousness. In the measure I love the Gospel of Grace, I will hate any perversion of the Gospel as did Paul. (Gal 1)

A few illustrations of love for the truth:

Moses	opposed	Pharaoh
John the Baptist	"	Herrod
Jesus Christ	"	Money Changers
Paul	"	Judism
Luther	"	Rome
John Wesley	"	Church of England

Love is Vain and meaningless without obedience to truth.

John 14:15, 21, 23 Jesus said if you love me, keep my commandments.

I Cor 13:16 Love rejoices in truth, does not sympathize with evil.

Eph. 4:15 Love speaks the truth. Many believers on the plea of maintaining love and unity will withhold truth which needs to be spoken, because they are afraid of division. Love shoots straight from the shoulder.

II Timothy 1:13 Love maintains doctrinal position. (Neo-Orthodoxy- False friends is more dangerous than open enemys.)

Phil. 1:9 Love is a by product of knowing the word. Discernment is the result of doctrine.

Lev. 21:18 There are many flat nosed preachers.

Titus 1:13 Love rebukes believers:

Nathan	rebuked	David
Paul	"	Peter (Gal. 2:11, and II Peter 3:15)
Lord	"	Us (Prov. 3:12)

Titus 3:10, Romans 16:17 Love rebukes unbelievers.

BELIEVERS GUIDELINE TO SEPARATION
CONCERNING QUESTIONABLE & UNQUESTIONABLE THINGS

Separation Where There is No Question

The believer is to separate from the unbeliever. II Cor. 6:14 "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers". The ox and ass were not to be yoked together. Deut. 22:10 - The plow must be drawn by a compatible yoke. In close association:

- a. Marriage - domestic ends
 - b. Business - Commercial
 - c. Friendship - social life
 - d. Spiritual - to glorify Christ
- ALL should be saved
or believers

Believers are told to separate from the fast crowd. I Peter 4:3, 4

Believers are told to separate from those who do not hold true doctrine. Rom. 16:17

Believers are told to separate from believers who refuse to obey doctrine. I Thess. 3:14, 15

Believers are told to separate from carnal believers. I Cor. 5:10, 11

Separation Concerning Questionable Things

- a. Does the thought, deed, or act in question enslave me? I Cor. 6:12
- b. Does the thought, deed, or act build me up spiritually? I Cor. 10:23
- c. Does the matter in question cause others to stumble? I Cor. 3:12, 13
- d. Does the matter in question glorify God? I Cor. 10:31
- e. Are the things in question doubtful? Rom. 1:23
- f. Am I able to abstain from all appearance of evil? I Thess. 5:22

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:1, 2)

DOCTRINE OF SEPARATION

Believers Attitude Toward the World

- Romans 12:2 - Be not conformed to this world
Gal. 6:14 - God forbid that I show glory, save in the cross of Christ. The world is crucified unto me and I unto the world.
Eph. 5:11 - Have no fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.
Phil. 2:15 - Shine as lights in the world
II Tim. 2:4 - Not to be entangled with the world
Titus 2:12 - We are to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts
James 1:27 - Keep one self unspotted from the world
James 4:4 - Friendship with the world means we are enemies with God.
I Peter 2:11 - Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.
I Jn. 2:15-17 - Love not the world neither the things of the world.

Worlds Attitude Toward the Believer

- John 15:19 - Because I have chosen you out of the world, the world hates you.
I Cor. 4:9, 13 - We are made a spectacle and as the filth of the world.
I Peter 4:4 - The world thinks it strange that you run not with them to the same excess of riot - Speaking evil of you.
I John 3:1 - Because we are sons of God (world knows us not - because it knew Him not). We are in the world but not of the world, think it not strange if the world hate you.

Believers Resources for Victory Over the World

- Titus 2:11 - The Grace of God teaches us to live Godly in this world.
I John 4:4 - Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.
I John 4:17 - Because as He is, so are ye in the world.
I John 5:4 - He that is born of God overcometh the world.
I John 5:4 - This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our Faith.

Old Testament Verses That Deal with Separation

- Gen. 3:8 - II - Sin separated Adam from fellowship with God.
Gen. 4:8 - Separation caused Cain to kill his own brother.
Gen. Ch. 6, 7 - God separated the wicked from the righteous. The ark provided to separate believers from unbelievers.
Gen. 11:8 - Separation was caused by God at the first U.N. building (Babel).
Gen. 12:1-4 - Abraham was to separate from country, kindred, father, house, into a land.
Gen. 13:9 - Separation from Lot.
Gen. 15:13-16 - Separation from Egypt promised.
Exodus 8:25-28 - Second Compromise suggested by Pharoah.
Exodus 10:10 - Third Compromise suggested by Pharoah.
Deut. 7:1-6 & - Marriage with unbelievers absolutely forbidden.
Ezra 9:12

AN OUTLINE OF THE DOCTRINE OF SEPARATION

II Corinthians 6:14-18

This is a doctrine that is prominent throughout the Bible and should be taught today, for separation is the key to Christian growth, while grace is the key to separation.

Separation unto God from the world is necessary for progress in the Christian life.

Since man rebelled in the garden and fell under the curse of sin, there was a great separation between man and God.

When a person responds to God's provision of salvation and is reconciled to God and made a new creature in Christ, a great separation takes place. His citizenship is immediately transferred to heaven, and the world is no longer his home. God declares that there are two classes of people on the earth.

Unbeliever	OR	Believer (John 3:36)
Dead		Alive (Ephesians 2:1)
Unregenerate		Regenerate (Titus 3:5)
Child of Darkness		Child of Light (Eph. 5:8; I Pe
Lost		Saved (I Cor. 1:18)
Condemned		Justified (Romans 4:5)
Child of the Devil		Child of God (John 8:44; Col 3:26)

The character of this world: It is godless, and it lies in wickedness (I John 5:19).

PRINCIPLES ON ECCLESIASTICAL SEPARATION

or

Separation from Doctrinal Error

Introduction: Acts 20:28-32

I. The Need for Separation: False Teaching and Apostasy

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|---------------------------|--------------------|
| A. Acts 20:28-32 | D. 2 Timothy 4:1-4 |
| B. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 | E. 2 Peter 2:1-3 |
| C. 1 Timothy 1:1-3 | F. Jude 2-19 |

II. The Principles of Ecclesiastical Separation

A. Romans 16:17,18

- Two Commands: "Mark" (skopeō) - to fix one's eyes upon
"Avoid" (ekklino) - turn away, keep aloof from
(SEPARATION)
- Those to be separated from: "Them which cause division and offenses contrary to the DOCTRINE which ye have learned."
-Notice, the issue of separation revolves around DOCTRINE.
- Motivation for false teaching: "they that are such serve... their own belly."
- Means of false teaching: "by good words and fair speeches."
"eulogia" eulogy, ~~fraudulent~~, false
- Results of false teaching: (1) "cause divisions and offenses,"
(2) "deceive the hearts of the simple."
innocent - unsuspecting
- What is God's answer to doctrinal error? "MARK" and "AVOID"
- What is the reason for separation? Protection of (1) the unity of the church, and (2) the innocent of the church.

B. 2 Timothy 2:16-21 [Three key phrases denoting separation: "shun" (2:16), "Depart from" (2:19), "Purge from" (2:21)]

- "SHUN" (periistemi) - to turn oneself around for the purpose of avoiding something. *Remark - continually*
 - What? "profane and vain babblings" - unholy and fruitless discussions.
 - Why?
-"they will increase unto more ungodliness"
-"their word will eat us doth a canker (gangrene)"
 - Who? "Hymenaeus and Philetus" - Paul wasn't afraid to name names or to "Mark them."

- d. What did they teach? "saying the resurrection is already past."
 -Notice, the issue again is DOCTRINE.
 -This false teaching centered around the incorrect time time setting of the "resurrection" or Rapture.
 - e. Present result of their false teaching: "overthrow the faith of some."
2. "DEPART FROM INIQUITY" (aphistemi) - to shun or flee from
 - a. The seal of the church
 - "The Lord knoweth them that are His" - denotes the SECURITY of the Church
 - "Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity" - denotes the SEPARATION of the Church
 - b. This two-fold inscription sets forth both positional and practical aspects of the Church revolving around its PRESERVATION and PURITY.
 3. "PURGE himself FROM these" (ekkathairo) - to avoid defilement from one and so keep oneself pure
 - a. Contrast of two kinds of believers
 - "vessels of gold and of silver" (HONOR)
 - "vessels...of wood and earth" (DISHONOR)
 - b. A vessel unto honor
 - Requirements - "if a man purge himself from THESE."
 Who are these?
 1. Generally: the vessels of wood, earth, and dishonor
 2. Specifically: the false teachers Hymenaeus and Philetus
 - Results: (1) "Sanctified" (2) "Meet for the master's use" (3) "Prepared unto every good work"
 4. Conclusion: Paul sets forth
 - a. The false teachers - "Hymenaeus and Philetus"
 - b. The false doctrine - "saying the resurrection is already past"
 - c. The Divine remedy - "shun," "depart from," "purge from these"
 - d. Reasons for separation -
 - The prevention of the progress of more ungodliness; and the spreading of false teaching (2:19-13)

-The Purity of the Church (2:19)

-The Performance of the individual believer (2:20,21)

5. The downward path in the progress of error

The compromising believer:

a. recognizes it

b. tolerates it

c. excuses it

d. defends it

e. condones it

f. embraces it

C. I Timothy 6:20,21 (Parallel passage to 2 Timothy 2:16-21)

1. Two commands: "keep" (guard), "avoiding" (turning away from, avoid meeting or associating with)

2. From what? "profane & vain babblings," "science falsely so called"

3. Result of false teaching: "some...have erred concerning THE FAITH"

a. God's answer to doctrinal error - GUARD and AVOID

b. The reason for separation - the PURITY of God's Word

D. 2 Corinthians 6:14-21

1. Commands: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers"
"COME OUT from among them and BE YE SEPARATE"
"TOUCH NOT the unclean thing"

2. Reason for separation: You have NO "fellowship", "communion," "concord," "part," "agreement," with the lost.

3. Result of separation: fellowship (6:17b-18)

E. 2 John 7-11 (In the early church there were itinerant preachers who would travel from church to church. Among these were false teachers.)

1. Their description - "deceiver", "an antichrist" (vs. 7)

2. Their doctrine - "confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh" (vs. 7, 9)

3. Divine remedy - "receive him not into your house", "neither bid him God speed" (vs. 10)

4. Reason for separation -

a. So not to be a "partaker of his evil deeds" (vs. 11)

b. So to "lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward" (vs. 8)

c. Compare 2 John 7-11 with 3 John 5-8.

(Notice, the issue is again DOCTRINE and the solution is again SEPARATION.)

F. Titus 3:10

1. His discription - "heritick"

2. God's remedy- "reject"

-Notice, God is again gracious and allows two opportunities for false teachers to correct their error.

G. Ephesians 5:11 (This passage is dealing with believers walking as "children of light")

1. Separation - "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness"

2. Rebuttal - "reprove them"

"reprove" (elegcho) - to rebuke so as to bring out conviction or confession of guilt

-Separation is not only to protect the saved from error, but to correct the erring.

III. Conclusion

A.. God has a solution to the treatment of doctrinal error. The remedy is SEPARATION.

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| 1. "Mark" and "avoid" (Rom. 16:17) | 7. "Come out from among them" (2 Cor. 6:17) |
| 2. "Shun" (2 Timothy 2:16) | 8. "Be ye separate" (2 Cor. 6:17) |
| 3. "Depart from" (2 Timothy 2:19) | 9. "Touch not" (2 Cor. 6:17) |
| 4. "Purge from" (2 Timothy 2:21) | 10. "Receive him not", "neither bid Godspeed" (2 John 10) |
| 5. "Keep (guard) and "avoiding" (I Timothy 6:20) | 11. "Reject" (Tit. 3:10) |
| 6. "Be not unequally yoked" (2 Cor. 6:14) | 12. "Have no fellowship", "reprove" (Eph. 5:11) |

B. The reasons for ecclesiastical separation are:

1. The protection of the unity of the church (Romans 16:17)
2. The protection of the innocent of the church (Romans 16:18)
3. The prevention of the progress of ungodliness and false teaching (2 Tim. 2:16-18)
4. The purity of the church (2 Tim. 2:19)
5. The performance of the individual believer (2 Timothy 2:20-21)
6. The purity of God's Word (I Timothy 6:21)
7. There is no basis for fellowship with the lost (2 Cor. 6:14-17)
8. So not to be a partaker, participant, or supporter of false teaching (2 John 11)
9. So as not to lose a full reward (2 John 8)