

## PERSONAL SEPARATION

### I. The Scriptural Foundation of Personal Separation,

- A. The sovereignty of the triune God. (God has a plan and the ability to carry it out.)
- B. The creation of man by God, in His image, and for Himself. (Man can thereby know, love, and serve God, God has placed Himself as the ultimate and daily goal of man's existence.)
- C. The revelation of God in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. (God has made His plan known and has made possible both the reconciliation of sinful man to Himself and the daily execution of His plan.)
- D. The sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. (The believer is elect and thereby belongs only to God; is begotten and thereby possesses ability to live for and serve God; is called and thereby involved in fulfilling God's plan.)
- E. The final authority of the Scriptures. (A standard has been given to us.)
- F. The total depravity of man. (Sin has penetrated into every facet of man's being – we may not trust ourselves.)
- G. The anti-Christian character of the World. (The believer is not of this world and must make long-range and short-range choices in order to fulfill God's plan.)

Worldliness is that perspective of life which places self at the center, or as the goal, of daily conduct. It is that motivation which causes one to think or act so as to achieve personal satisfaction first and/or draw attention to self. This may be done in the pursuance of obvious non-Biblical activity such as immorality, gossip, possessions, etc., or in the more subtle so-called Biblical activity, such as, prayer, Bible study, and Christian service.

The evil of worldliness is expressed in the principle that "sin is its own punishment." (Augustine, Confessions. Book I, Par, 19). It is an inexorable rule established by God that the goal of our life will stamp us with its character. The Biblical doctrine of separation points out this truth, cleanses the participant, and insures that one may be conformed to the Person of Jesus Christ.

### II. A Scriptural Sample of Personal Separation. I Peter 1:13-2:12.

#### A. The definition of personal separation.

##### 1. Negatively.

- a. It is not a commandment to retreat from life,
- b. It does not mean that pleasure, education, high-position, possessions, beauty, talent, money, and influence are wrong.
- c. It does not mean that as Christians we are pre-determined to fail.
- d. It does not mean that the Christian is enslaved to a list of rules.

2. Positively.

a. Personal separation is a total commitment to the Bible perspective that:

- 1) God is the only goal for life and daily conduct.  
(One may not be an Idolater.)
- 2) The Bible is the only final authority, not self.  
(One may not play God.)
- 3) The Christian belongs totally to God and is inescapably called to honor and serve Him, not self,  
(One may not be uninvolved.)

b. Personal separation is a daily decision to act upon and to practice this commitment.

- 1) The promised result – a life of freedom to fellowship with and to serve God and thereby to find self-fulfillment.
- 2) The emphasis – not on the negative FROM, but on the positive TO: To God, and to self-fulfillment within the plan of God.

B. The basis of personal separation.

1. The work of God for us, 1:2-5, 18, 19.
2. The work of God in us, 2:9-11.
3. The commandment of God to us, 1:13-17.
4. The call of God involving us, 2:5,9.

C. The characteristics or requirements of personal separation.

1. Personal separation is fundamentally spiritual, 1:13.
2. Personal separation involves decisions of faith, 1:13.
3. Personal separation is personal, 1:13.
4. Personal separation is in the present tense, 1:13-15.
5. Personal separation is not based on feeling, 1:15,16.

D. The test of personal separation.

1. The Commitment to God, 1:13.
2. Freedom from enslaving desires, 1:14.
3. Practical holiness, 1:15,16.
4. Reverence for God, 1:17.
5. A spiritual appreciation of the cost of redemption, 1:18-21.
6. Love for fellow Christians, 1:22.
7. A serious attempt to understand the Scriptures, 2:1.

III. The Scriptural Seriousness of Personal Separation.

A. It is commanded by God, 1:13-16.

B. The effects of the alternative.

1. Disobedience to God 1:13-14
2. Contradiction of the principles of the atonement, 1:18-21.
3. Pursuance of a false goal, 2:5,9.
4. Adoption of a self-destructive factor into life, 2:11.
5. Violation of our call – the reason for our existence and our salvation, 2:5,9.