

**DISCIPLESHIP 1
IDENTIFICATION
SERIES**

**LESSON 7
UNIT II
DEVELOPING GODLY HABITS - PART 3
WALKING AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT**

For
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DEVELOPING GODLY HABITS - PART 3 WALKING AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT

Now the **SECOND** area in which we are to develop and practice good, godly habits, Paul in Ephesians 5:8 describes as **WALKING AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT**.

Walking as children of light has to do with our **RELATIONSHIP WITH THOSE WHO ARE STILL IN DARKNESS**.

Those who are still in darkness are the ones who have not been born again or who are born again and have made the decision, have chosen to live in the kingdom of darkness serving sin and thus Satan, instead of serving their Father God.

Now our **relationship** - that is the relationship of those who have through faith received Jesus Christ as their Savior and have decided to follow Jesus, making Him the Lord of their life - is described in Ephesians 5:11 as one of having **NO FELLOWSHIP**. **Here then we have A RELATIONSHIP OF SEPARATION**

In this lesson we want to talk about:

- **the PRINCIPLE of separation**
- **the PURPOSE of separation**
- **an EXAMPLE of separation**
- **THREE AREAS of separation for the child of God**

THE PRINCIPLE OF SEPARATION is given in Genesis 2:24,

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

The primary application of this passage has to do with the marriage of a man and a woman. However Paul in Ephesians 6:31 quotes this passage from Genesis chapter 2 and in verse 32 applies it to our relationship with Christ. He says,

"This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

With this understanding the **separation from your father's** house would then refer to the house of darkness into which you were physically born and lived until you were translated into the Kingdom of Light by the new birth in Jesus Christ. Thus because you became one flesh with Jesus in the new birth you are to separate yourself from your former life-style, your former father, the devil, from his house and those that are his.

This separation is necessary because you no longer related to them. You are a child of God. They are the children of Satan. You are now in the kingdom of light. They are in the kingdom of darkness, which is ruled by the Devil. Your attitudes are not their attitudes. Your thoughts are not their thoughts. Your ways are not their ways. There is no plane of agreement between you and them. Therefore there is no **RELATIONSHIP**. Amos 3:3 puts it this way,

"Can two **WALK** together, except they agree."

In 2 Corinthians 6:14 our Father God tells us,

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers . . ."

Then He says in verse 17, **". . . come out from among them, and be ye separate . . ."**

THE PURPOSE OF SEPARATION we see stated in 1 Chronicles 23:13,

"The sons of Anram; Aaron and Moses: and Aaron was SEPARATED, That he should sanctify the most holy things, he and his sons for ever, to burn incense before the Lord. to minister unto Him, and to bless in His name for ever."

Aaron and his sons were separated to be priests before God for ever.

1 Peter 2:9 says that we who are the children of God are a **royal priesthood**. We have been sanctified (set apart for God) and are being sanctified - **separated from the people unto God** - as priests forever. Why are we sanctified and separated unto God? In order that we might "burn incense" that is be **intercessors** for **the people**; that we might **"minister unto Him"** by **servng one another in love**; that we might **"bless in His Name"** (bless and be a blessing to) **our brothers and sisters and those in the world of darkness with whom we have contact**.

AN EXAMPLE OF SEPARATION AS SEEN IN ABRAHAM

In Genesis 11:27 - 13:18 we see God calling Abram to separate himself from his father's house.

Verses 27-30 is introductory to what is about to take place. In verse 31 we see Terah, Abram's father, leaving the place of his birth to go into the land of Canaan - is the **land of promise, and** represents to us the **place of rest**.

We note that Terah began this journey to the promise land but that he stopped in Haran and never resumed his journey to the promise land. He died in Haran (vs. 31).

Like Terah, there are many children of God who begin the journey to the promise land, to that place of rest, the abundant life in Jesus which our Father has for us, **BUT**, who, also, like Terah stop before they reach that place of rest. The reasons are varied and many, but the point is, they miss out on God's abundant blessings for them because they do not continue the journey with God.

Now in chapter 12, verse 1 we read that God spoke to Abram saying,

"Get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred and from THY FATHER'S HOUSE, unto a land that I will show thee. And I will make of thee a great nation, and I WILL BLESS THEE. and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing."

In verse 4 we are told that Abram departed Haran according to the word of the Lord, **BUT, "LOT WENT WITH HIM."** We see there was not that complete separation from his old relationships. God had said, leave your country, leave your relatives and your father's house, **but Lot went with him**.

As we continue the story of Abram we see that he didn't prosper even though he built an altar and began to worship the Lord. Famine came upon the land, so he goes down to Egypt. Fear came upon him, so he passes his wife off as his sister. He got into trouble with the Pharaoh of Egypt because of this lie and is told to leave.

In Chapter 13 verse 1.

"Abram went up out of Egypt, he and his wife. and all that he had, AND LOT WENT WITH HIM."

Egypt through out the Bible represents the world with Satan as the ruler. So Abram went up out of Egypt, **BUT HE IS STILL HANGING ON TO LOT** (Lot represents that old way of thinking, old way of doing, old relationships).

Verses 3 and 4 shows us that Abram once again is looking to God. He is back at the beginning and . . . there Abram **called on the name of the Lord.**

Verses 5, 7 **"And LOT also, went with Him . . . and there was a STRIFE . . ."**

As long as Lot was with Abram there was trouble for Him. God was not able to bless Abram as He so desired as long as he was holding on to Lot. It was only,

"after that Lot was separated from him"; that God said to him, "Lift up now thine eyes. and look from the place where thou art northward. and southward and eastward, and westward: for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered." (verses 14-16).

Like Abraham you will not be able to move into the full, abundant blessing of your Father God until there has been a separation from the world, and the ways of the world. Your relationship to the world and those in the world is to be a **RELATIONSHIP OF SEPARATION**. There will be an association with the world and contact with those in the world but we are not related to them.

THREE AREAS OF SEPARATION FOR THE CHILD OF GOD.

1. THE FIRST AREA OF SEPARATION is seen in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Verse 14 says,

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

Then in verse 14 still speaking concerning **UNBELIEVERS** we read,

". . . come from among them, and be ye SEPARATE. saith the Lord . . ."

Although we will have contact and even be associated with unbelievers in our daily lives at work, in family gatherings and etc., our relationship with them is to be one of separation.

Amos 3:3 says, "Can two walk together, except they agree?"

2. THE SECOND AREA OF SEPARATION we see in 1 Corinthians 5:9-13. Reading from verse 13,

"... if any man that is called a **BROTHER** (*one who has been born again*) be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; **WITH SUCH AN ONE NO NOT TO EAT.**"

Now in **verse 17**, we read,

"Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person."

THEREFORE, not only are we to be separated from **unbelievers** but we are also to separate **from one who is a brother or sister in the Lord, but who is living in open sin and rebellion.**

3. THE THIRD AREA OF SEPARATION we see in Romans 16:17,

"Now I beseech you, brethern, **MARK** them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and **AVOID THEM.**"

We then are to separate ourselves, avoid, **those who are teaching contrary to the clear word of God.** They are wolves in sheep's clothing and bring confusion and teach false doctrine for the purpose of deceiving God's children. The word says to **MARK THEM AND AVOID THEM. We are to separate ourselves from the world of darkness and it's ways.** The Apostle Paul in Romans 12:2 tells us, ". . . be **NOT CONFORMED** to this world . . ."

This **HABIT** of being separated from unbelievers, brothers and sisters living in sin, and those teaching contrary to the word, is one which we need to develop and put into practice if we are going to successfully **PUT ON THE NEW MAN** and **WALK AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT.**

END of IDENTIFICATION Series

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