

1. The Scriptures are certainly clear there are certain classes of people from whom we are to separate.

1.1 In this doctrine we will learn not to have fellowship with hyper-emotional people, those who are anti-authority types, idolaters, criminals, those who are anti-Bible doctrine and those who will not work.

2. Definition and concept

2.1 Separation is the removal of self from the periphery of certain people.

2.2 It must be done unobtrusively and with taste. It must not be done in a judgmental manner. Separation often requires we carefully select with whom we socialize, enter into business, date, marry, go to church, etc.

2.3 Motivation to separate must always come from doctrine resident in the soul.

2.3.1 It follows then that first there must be doctrine in the soul before there can be bona fide separation. *Bona fide* was originally a legal term but today it has broad use: it means "genuine in nature, authentic, sincere" or "honest."

2.4 Separation does not mean you stop using impersonal love toward those from whom you separate. More often than not a spiritual man will pray for the object of his separation.

3. Now let's take a look at those from whom we are to separate with comment.

3.1 hyper-emotional types

3.1.1 There is a unique form of "reversionism" described in the Scripture; "those who serve their own emotions and not God." This includes many fellow Christians and even pastor-teachers.

Phi 3:18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

Phi 3:19 Whose end is destruction, whose god is their **belly**, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

3.1.2 The bowel, kidney and womb only respond when prompted. They will not operate unless stimulated by food, liquid or a fetus. To do otherwise is unnatural and usually a sign of a medical problem, just as emotions leading in the soul rather than responding is a form of spiritual reversionism. Anyone who is led totally by their emotions as opposed to their intellect fit the classic definition of insanity.

3.1.3 This command to separate from those whose god is their "belly" is seldom applied because many see it as "a genuine display of 'love' toward God." Emotions must, however, be a responder not a driver.

3.1.4 Emotion without thought is empty and thus described in Scripture as a responder body part. Emotions must never be permitted to assume authority over the soul. The engine must drive and the caboose must follow if spiritual progress is to be made. Emotions are designed to appreciate that which is in the soul.

3.1.5 Demon possession in the case of the unbeliever and demon control in the case of the believer can occur when the emotions are permitted to dominate.

3.1.6 Let's look at nine Scriptures where emotions are mentioned using body-part metaphors.

Gen 43:30 And Joseph made haste; for his **bowels** did yearn upon his brother: and he sought where to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there.

Jer 31:20 Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my **bowels** are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the LORD.

Phi 1:8 For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the **bowels** of Jesus Christ.

Phm 1:7 For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the **bowels** of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.

Phm 1:20 Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my **bowels** in the Lord.

Rom 16:18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own **belly**; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

Psa 7:9 Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and **reins**.

Psa 26:2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my **reins** and my heart.

Jer 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the **reins**, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

3.1.7 Emotions can impede the intake of the Word. Many had been deluded into thinking a real spiritual experience must be an emotional one, and herein is a significant problem. Heterodoxy seems to thrive on emotion. The more a person or group of persons is led by their emotions, the more false doctrine abounds.

3.1.8 Emotional revolt in the soul often results in arrogance, rejection of authority and the creation of mutual-admiration societies where plots and counter plots breed and proliferate. In a soul dominated by emotions, pleasing personalities often impress rather than God's protocol.

3.2 anti-authority types

3.2.1 Authority is the legal power delegated by God. People are by definition subordinated to other people for the proper functioning of establishment. Authority is ordained of God both in the spiritual as well as the secular realm.

3.2.2 God has established an organization chart. For example: Father over Jesus and the Holy Spirit, Jesus over all things, husband over the wife, parents over children, bosses over employees, government leaders over citizens, school teachers and coaches over students, military leaders over subordinates and pastor-teachers over congregates.

3.2.3 The principle of authority and its value is established early in the Scriptures. A coequal Jesus and Holy Spirit agreed to get under the authority of the Father. Christ agreed to execute a plan of propitiation and reconciliation and the Holy Spirit agreed to reveal the plan.

3.2.4 The principle of authority is related to the fall in the garden. The woman failed by refusing the authority of the Word and then the authority of her husband and was thus mentally seduced. Eve failed by not receiving the Word of God as taught in the Garden but she also refused the authority of her husband by not calling him when the snake first began to speak.

3.2.5 God has established authorities to permit the proper functioning of His plan in the devil's world. To this end He established the authority of the Word of God and the pastor-teacher to teach the Word in the local church.

3.2.6 God also established the four divine institutions: volition, marriage, family and nationalism. It is in this framework that authority best functions.

3.3 idolatrous types

3.3.1 The Old Testament is full of warnings about the dangers of idolatry. Israel was ordered to kill the inhabitants of the Promised Land and thus avoid the temptation to join in their heinous idolatrous practices.

3.3.2 The Ra Shamra tablets found at Ugarit documents these horrific practices and thus the Bible warned against incorporating them in their worship services. A few Scriptures will illustrate (at least in part) what was practiced and the actions to be taken.

3.3.3 The practices and prohibitions

Lev 18:21 "Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molech, for you must not profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.

Lev 18:22 "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.

Lev 18:23 "Do not have sexual relations with an animal and defile yourself with it. A woman must not present herself to an animal to have sexual relations with it; that is a perversion.

Lev 18:24 "Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled.

Lev 18:25 Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.

Lev 18:26 But you must keep my decrees and my laws. The native-born and the aliens living among you must not do any of these detestable things,

Lev 18:27 for all these things were done by the people who lived in the land before you, and the land became defiled.

Lev 18:28 And if you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it vomited out the nations that were before you.

Lev 18:29 "Everyone who does any of these detestable things -- such persons must be cut off from their people.

Lev 18:30 Keep my requirements and do not follow any of the detestable customs that were practiced before you came and do not defile yourselves with them. I am the LORD your God."

Deu 12:1 These are the decrees and laws you must be careful to follow in the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess -- as long as you live in the land.

Deu 12:2 Destroy completely all the places on the high mountains and on the hills and under every spreading tree where the nations you are dispossessing worship their gods.

Deu 12:3 Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and burn their Asherah poles in the fire; cut down the idols of their gods and wipe out their names from those places.

3.3.4 Notice in Romans chapter one Paul describes how mankind exchanged a knowledge of God for idols made with hands. As a result He gave them over to all manner of sinful desires.

Rom 1:22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

Rom 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Rom 1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

Rom 1:25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator -- who is forever praised. Amen.

3.3.5 In the same way the Apostle warns of the need to flee idolatry and the practices so prevalent in Corinth where Christian communion must not be mixed with idolatry.

1Co 10:14 Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.

1Co 10:15 I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say.

1Co 10:16 Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?

1Co 10:17 Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

1Co 10:18 Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar?

1Co 10:19 Do I mean then that a sacrifice offered to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything?

1Co 10:20 No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons.

1Co 10:21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.

3.3.6 In the book of Galatians Paul warns of the danger of practicing idolatry.

Gal 5:19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;

Gal 5:20 **idolatry** and **witchcraft**; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions,

3.4 **criminal-types**

Pro 1:10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

Pro 1:11 If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:

Pro 1:12 Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:

Pro 1:13 We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:

Pro 1:14 Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:

Pro 1:15 My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:

1Pe 4:3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

1Pe 4:4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

3.5 **anti-doctrinal types**

3.5.1 We must flee all who reject God's Word, even if they are family members.

Mat 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

Mat 10:35 For I am come to set a man against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

Mat 10:36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

Mat 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Mat 10:38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

2Ti 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2Ti 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

2Ti 3:3 Without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

2Ti 3:4 Traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

2Ti 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: **from such turn away.**

3.6 indolent types

3.6.1 This is the "freeloader type;" i.e., those who are capable of working but refuse to work.

2Th 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

2Th 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

2Th 3:7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

2Th 3:8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

3.6.2 As you can see from 1Pe 4:4, you will often be criticized when you do separate from the criminal type. We must be certain that we give them no reason for such criticism; our separation must be done with kindness and without ostentation.

4. Now let's look at several separation principles:

4.1 Believers are not to marry unbelievers.

1Co 6:14 And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.

1Co 6:15 **Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.**

1Co 6:16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

1Co 6:17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

4.2 Pastors are to remove certain types from their church memberships.

1Co 5:1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

1Co 5:2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

1Co 5:3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

1Co 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1Co 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1Co 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

1Co 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

1Co 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1Co 5:9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

1Co 5:10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

1Co 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother 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.

1Co 5:12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?

1Co 5:13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

5. Recall all believers have a right to their own form of reversionism, and it is only doctrine that can recover a reversionary soul.

6. In summary then we are to avoid apostates, be they real or nominal Christians.

2Jo 8 Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully.

2Jo 9 Anyone who does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

2Jo 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him.

2Jo 11 Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.