

“Be Ye Separate!”
2 Corinthians 6:14-16

Introduction:

1. And So - This Morning - We Are Going To Explore:
 - One Of The Lord’s Commands To Us:
 - As We Head Back To 2 Corinthians 6!
 - So Please Turn In Your Bibles There With Me!
 - 2 Corinthians 6!
 - Where Last Week:
 - We Learned About Paul’s Appeal:
 - For The Heart Of The Corinthian Christians!
 - Back In 6:11-13:
 - Paul Told Them That His Heart Was “Enlarged” For Them!
 - And His Desire Was For Their Heart To Be “Enlarged” For Him!
 - But Instead Of Being “Enlarged” - Their Heart For Paul:
 - And Even For The Lord:
 - Had Been - 6:12 - “Straitened” Or “Constricted!”
 - Something Was Squeezing Out The Love They Should Have Possessed As Christians & As A Church!
2. And So - With Paul’s Next Breath:
 - He Addresses An Issue:
 - That Might Have Been The Biggest Cause:
 - Of Their Heart Problem!
 - It Was Their Relationships With The Unbelieving World Around Them!
 - And So Paul Writes:
 - 6:14-7:1 - “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? / And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? / 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. / Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, / And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. / 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!”
 - With These Words - Paul Is Still Writing To Them:
 - As A Loving Father To His Own Children! (6:13)
 - And As A Caring Doctor To His Own Patients!
 - And The Passage We Just Read Is The Prescription For Their Heart Problem!
 - And The Solution For Them:
 - Was Separation - Biblical Separation!
 - And This Will Be Our Focus For The Next Two Weeks:
 - Biblical Separation!
3. Because - In Too Many Churches:
 - And In The Lives Of Too Many Christians:
 - Biblical Separation:
 - Has Become Something That Is Not Talked About:
 - Or Even Thought About Much Any More!
 - And We Are Becoming More & More Influenced:
 - By The Unbelieving World Around Us!
 - And Our Hearts Are Closing Out One Of The Most Important Messages Of God To His People!
 - The Message About Purity & Holiness! 1 Peter 1:15-16 - “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; / Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy!”
- And So - The First Thing Paul Gives To Us In These Verses Is:
 1. ***The Principle Of Separation!***
 - 6:14a - “Be Ye Not Unequally Yoked Together With Unbelievers!”

- This Is A Clear Command & A Clear Instruction:
 - For Us As Christians!
 - We See:
- The Expectation Of Separation!
 - In The Life Of Every Christian:
 - And In The Life Of Every Church!
 - “Be Ye Not Unequally Yoked Together With Unbelievers!”
 - Now - If You Are A True Followers Of Christ:
 - You Will Want To Obey & Follow The Commands Of Christ!
 - Jesus Said In John 14:15 - “If ye love me, keep my commandments!”
 - Well - This Is One Of His Commandments To Us!
 - “Be Ye Not Unequally Yoked Together With Unbelievers!”
 - So - What Does Paul Mean By This?
- The Explanation Of Separation:
 - Of This Command Hinges On The Single Greek Word That Is Translated:
 - “Unequally Yoked Together!”
 - It Points Back To The Old Testament Command Found In Deuteronomy 22:10 - “Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together!”
 - Two Completely Different Animals With Two Completely Different Strengths “Yoked Together” To Complete The Same Task!
 - And So Paul Is Reminding Us That:
 - There Is A Vast Difference Between Different:
 - Christians & Non-Christians!
 - And Believers Are Not To Be Joined Together With Unbelievers!
 - This Means That There Is To Be:
 - A Clear Separation From Unbelievers:
 - And The Influence They Can Have On You!
 - Now - The Way Paul Wanted The Corinthian Church:
 - To Apply This Command To Their Lives:
 - May Be Different Than The:
 - Issues We Face Today!
 - For Example - Idolatry Was A Major Problem In The City Of Corinth & Remained A Temptation To Many Christians!
 - We May Not Be Tempted To Go To The Temple Of An Idol Or Eat Meat Sacrificed To an Idol!
 - But The Principle Remains The Same!
 - And There Needs To Be In Our Lives:
 - A Real Difference & A Real Separation:
 - From The Influence Of Unbelievers!
 - Is There A Separation & A Difference In Your Life:
 - From The Wickedness Of Unbelievers?
 - We Might Say - Absolutely!
 - But Is This True? Think About The Music We Listen To Or The Movies We Watch Or The Books We Read! Do They Portray Sin & Wickedness?
 - Are We Being Influenced By Them? Even In A Subtle Way?
 - Psalm 101:3 - “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me!”
 - Is There A Separation & A Difference In Your Life:
 - From The Worldliness Of Unbelievers?
 - Where We Get Caught Up:
 - In The Same Pursuits & Passions As Unbelievers?
 - Again - Sometimes Very Subtle! But Are We Are Called To The Salt & Light To This World!
 - Are We Letting The World Influence Us?
 - Or Are We Striving To Influence The World For Christ?
 - Matthew 6:33 - “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you!”
 - Is There A Separation & A Difference In Your Life:

- From The Worship Of Unbelievers?
 - There May Not Be Too Many Temples:
 - Of True Idols In America Today:
 - Though They Are Growing In Number!
- But There Is A Worldly Form Of Worship:
 - That Is Creeping Into Our Hearts:
 - And Even Into Our Churches!
 - Worship Of Self!
 - Worship Of Song!
 - Worship Of Sex!
- 1 John 2:15 - "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him!"
- Is There A Separation & A Difference In Your Life:
 - From Even A Walk With Unbelievers?
 - Believers Should Not Marry:
 - Unbelievers!
 - Believers Should Be Very Careful:
 - Becoming Partners With Unbelievers - In Business, In Politics, In Education!
- There Are Just So Many Ways:
 - In Which This Principle Can Apply:
 - In Our Lives As Christians!
 - And Yet - When You Try - Some Even In The Church Will Ridicule You As Being A Puritan, Or Accuse You Of Being A Pharisee Or A Legalist!
- And Yet - We Are Still Told:
 - "Be Ye Not Unequally Yoked Together With Unbelievers!"
 - James Denney - "We Are To Have No Compromising Connection With Anything In The World Which Is Alien To God! There Will Always Be Things And People To Whom The Christian Has To Say No!"
- But - In The Rest Of Scripture - We Can Find:
- The Exceptions To Separation:
 - 1 Corinthians 5:9-11 - "I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: / 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. / 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!"
 - In 1 Corinthians - Paul Deals With Separation:
 - Inside The Church!
 - In 2 Corinthians - Paul Deals With Separation:
 - Outside The Church!
 - But Even In 1 Corinthians:
 - He Helps Us Understand What Separation From Unbelievers Is All About!
 - Separation Does Not Mean:
 - That You Withdraw Yourself:
 - Completely From The Unbelieving World Around You!
 - 5:11 - "For then must ye needs go out of the world!"
 - And That's Only For The Lord To Decide!
 - You Still Need To:
 - Work With Unbelievers!
 - As We All Have & Still Do!
 - But We Are Not To Work With Unbelievers When It Comes To Matters Of Christ & The Church!
 - You Still Need To:
 - Witness To Unbelievers!
 - And Seek To Win Them To Jesus Christ!
 - But Never In A Way - "That Would Lead To A Compromise Of Christian Standards Or Jeopardize Consistency Of Christian Witness!" (ECB)
- So - Its Not About Complete Isolation:
 - We Aren't To Be Hermits & Monks & Nuns!

- But It Is About Insulation:
 - From The Influence Of Unbelieving Wickedness, Worldliness, Worship, And World-View!
- We Must Not Let The World Of Unbelievers:
 - Squeeze Us Back Into Its Mold!
 - Because - "The Christian Is A Different Breed!" (Gordon Fee)
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17 - "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new!"
- This Is The Principle Of Separation!
 - 6:14a - "Be Ye Not Unequally Yoked Together With Unbelievers!"
 - This Requires Personal Application! How Is The Unbelieving World Influencing You Today?
- But After Giving Us This Very Important Principle:
 - To Obey! He Then Helps Us See Why It Is So Important!

2. ***The Pattern Of Separation!***

- Paul Asks 5 Questions - Using 5 Contrasts:
 - Of Some Things That Are Polar Opposites!
 - Opposites That Do Not Attract – But Oppose!
 - Wants To Get You To Think!
 - 6;14b-16a - "For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? / And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? / And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?"
 - Paul Writes Each Of These Questions:
 - In Such A Way - That The Answer:
 - Is Obvious & Is Clear!
 - They Have Absolutely Nothing To Do With Each Other!
- First Question - Question Of Commonality!
 - 14b - "What Fellowship Hath Righteousness With Unrighteousness / Lawlessness?"
 - Paul Is Talking About The Difference:
 - Between Right & Wrong!
 - Between What Is Pure & Impure!
 - What Do They Have In Common?
 - Absolutely Nothing!
 - There Are Things In This World:
 - That Are Black & White Issues!
 - And They Are Altogether Different & Opposite From Each Other!
 - And A Person Will Either Be:
 - A Law-Keeper:
 - Or A Law-Breaker!
 - There Is No In-Between!
 - And So - From The Bible - We See That There Needs To Be:
 - An Opposing Attitude Toward Them!
 - Even As It Is Said Of Christ:
 - Hebrews 1:9 - "Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity!"
 - An Opposing Allegiance Toward Them!
 - Romans 6:19 - "For as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness!"
 - There Can Be No Fellowship:
 - Between Righteousness & Unrighteousness!
- Second Question - Question Of Compatibility!
 - 14c - "And What Communion Hath Light With Darkness?"
 - Just As In The Physical World:
 - Light & Darkness:
 - Are Separate & Distinct:
 - So It Is In The Spiritual World!
 - Spiritual Light & Spiritual Darkness:
 - Are Incompatible!

- You Can Only Have One:
 - In The Same Place & At The Same Time!
 - And So What Do They Have In Common?
- Absolutely Nothing!
 - And This Division Has Been There:
 - From The Very Beginning:
 - When - Genesis 1:4 - “God Divided The Light From The Darkness!”
 - And So - When You Become A Child Of God:
 - This Division Is Made:
 - In Your Own Heart & Life!
 - Ephesians 5:8 - “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light!”
 - There Can Be No Communion:
 - Between Light & Darkness!
- Third Question - Question Of Concord!
 - 15a - “And What Concord Hath Christ With Belial?”
 - “Belial” Is A Common Word In The Old Testament:
 - That Describes The Nature & Character Of The Devil & His Followers!
 - It Means Something / Someone Who Is “Worthless” & “Wicked!”
 - And This Question Asks:
 - Can There Be Any “Harmony” Between These Two Persons?
 - Can They Agree On Anything Together:
 - As Equals?
 - The Answer Is Clearly No! Because They Are Enemies!
 - There Can Never Be Any Agreement:
 - Any Arrangement / Any Accord:
 - Between Them!
 - Because:
 - Belial - The Devil Is Worthless!
 - But Christ Is Eminently Worthy!
 - Revelation 4:11 - “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created!”
 - The Devil Is “That Wicked One!” (1 John 3:12):
 - But Christ Is Called “Jesus Christ The Righteous!” (1 John 2:1)
 - The Devil Is “A Liar, And The Father Of It!” (John 8:44)
 - But Christ Is “The Way, The Truth, And The Life!” (John 14:6)
 - The Devil Is “The Tempter” (Matthew 4:3):
 - But Christ “Cannot Be Tempted With Evil, Neither Tempteth He Any Man!” (James 1:13)
 - The Devil Is A Deceiver!
 - But Christ Is “A Merciful And Faithful High Priest In Things Pertaining To God!” (Hebrews 2:17)
 - The Devil “As A Roaring Lion, Walketh About, Seeking Whom He May Devour!” (1 Peter 5:8)
 - But Christ Came - “To Seek And To Save That Which Was Lost!” (Luke 19:10)
 - The Devil Is “A Murderer From The Beginning” (John 8:44):
 - But Christ Came - “That They Might Have Life, And that They Might Have It More Abundantly!” (John 10:10)
 - There Can Be No Concord:
 - Between Christ & Belial!
 - Amos 3:3 - “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” - Answer - No!
- Fourth Question - Question Of Concern!
 - 15b - “Or What Part Hath He That Believeth With An Infidel / Unbeliever?” - Same Word Found Back In Principle Of Separation - 6:14!
 - A Believer - Has A Close Relationship With:
 - Righteousness & Light & Christ!
 - But An Unbeliever - Has A Close Relationship With:
 - Unrighteousness & Darkness & Belial!

- And So - Believers - As The Children Of God:
 - Really Have No Part / No Portion:
 - With Unbelievers - Who Are, In Truth, The Children Of The Devil!
 - John 8:44 - “Ye Are Of Your Father The Devil!”
- There Are & Ought To Be Some Very Real Differences:
 - Between Believers & Unbelievers! We:
 - Live In Different Domains!
 - Kingdom Of The Lord Vs. The Kingdom Of This World!
 - Have A Different Direction In Life!
 - Living For Christ Vs. Living For Self & The World!
 - Have A Different Department!
 - Lifestyle! Right Vs. Wrong!
 - Ultimately Have A Different Destination!
 - Life Vs. Death!
 - Heaven Vs. Hell!
- Even Though In Many Ways:
 - Believers & Unbelievers Seem Similar:
 - In Natural Ways:
 - Often Look The Same / Speak The Same / Work The Same / Live The Same!
- Yet - In Truth - A Believer Has No “Part” With:
 - The Unbeliever!
 - The Unbelieving World Has Absolutely Nothing A Believer Should Want:
 - Or Ever Need!
- Fifth Question - Question Of Consent!
 - 16a - “And What Agreement Hath The Temple Of God With Idols?”
 - Looks Back To The Old Testament:
 - Temple & Tabernacle:
 - Where The Presence Of God Dwelt In A Special Way For His People!
 - And The Word “Temple” Has A Specific Meaning:
 - Of The “Holy Of Holies!”
 - And The Question Is - Did An Idol Have Any Business Being Inside The Holy Of Holies In God’s Temple?
 - No! Of Course Not!
 - Because Of The Stark Contrast Between:
 - The True God & False Idols!
 - God Is Alive!
 - Idols Are Dead!
 - God Is The Creator!
 - Idols Are Created!
 - The Work Of Men’s Hands! (Isaiah 2:9)
 - God Is Able:
 - To See & To Hear & To Act!
 - Idols Can Do Nothing!
 - Psalm 115:4-8 - “Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. / They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: / They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: / They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. / They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them!”
 - And So - There Can Be No Agreement:
 - Between God & Idols!
- After All These Questions:
 - Do You See The Pattern?
 - Do You Get The Point?
 - Some Things Just Can’t Mix!

Conclusion:

1. And Then Paul Adds This Amazing Statement:
 - 6:16b - “For Ye Are The Temple Of The Living God!”
 - “Ye” - The Church!

- “Ye” - Every Christian!
- “Ye” - A People & Not A Place Any Longer!
- And This Is Why:
 - Biblical Separation:
 - Is So Important For You:
 - In Your Life As A Christian!
 - We Are Going To Continue To Look At This Important Principle Next Week As Well!
- 2. But For Today:
 - How Many Times & In How Many Ways:
 - Has The World Influenced You:
 - This Week?
 - Has The Wickedness & The Worldliness & The Worship & The World-View:
 - Of Unbelievers:
 - Crept Into Your Mind & Closed Off Your Heart:
 - To The Lord & His Work In Your Life?
 - 3. And Yet - Have You Opened Yourself Up To That Influence?
 - There Must Be Some Very Real Differences:
 - Between The Church & The World:
 - And Between Believers In Christ & Unbelievers!
 - And So - Think About What Area In Your Life You Need To Obey The Lord Today:
 - With This Principle:
 - “Be Ye Not Unequally Yoked Together With Unbelievers!”

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com