

Daily Devotional, September 8, 2020

“You Shall Be Holy, (Leviticus 19:2, NKJV)

“You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.” (Leviticus 19:2)

God’s people are called to be separate from and different in conduct than the world around them. To be called to be holy by God is to be set apart as His special people for His special service. This principle forms the basis for the wildly unpopular but true scriptural doctrine of biblical separation.

This doctrine is to be applied to our dealings and alliances with those who are not Bible believing Christians and/or do not affirm the simple gospel, [John 3:16](#); [Ephesians 2:8-9](#), [1 Corinthians 15:3-4](#). We are to evangelize them, not join with them. The doctrine should not be used in such a way that it excludes mercy, or to break fellowship with true believers who also have sound Bible doctrine.

The Basis for the Doctrine is the Holiness of God, as affirmed in our text, Leviticus 19:2. We are to practice, regarding spiritual and moral matters, Separation from Unbelievers, those who do not affirm the Christian gospel at all (the worldly crowd, and peoples of other religions), [Amos 3:3](#), [1 Corinthians 15:33](#), [2 Corinthians 6:14-17](#), [Philippians 1:9-10](#), [1 Timothy 5:22](#).

Separation from Erring Believers and False Professors of Faith must likewise be practiced. By this, we refer to those who profess to believe in the Christian gospel but are doctrinally unsound, willing to compromise on at least one major point of doctrine, or live in a way that can clearly be shown to be in violation of biblical precepts, [Romans 16:17](#), [1 Corinthians 5:9-13](#), [2 Thessalonians 3:6](#), [2 John 10-11](#), [Jude 3](#).

Objection Answered, [John 17:20-23](#), the Lord’s prayer for Christian unity, is often used as the basis for the ecumenical argument, but in that sense it is misapplied. The least common denominator of love, unity, and acceptance cannot be applied at the expense of God’s truth. However, this passage can and should be applied to true believers, whose differences are insignificant in that they are not regarding any major doctrines of the Christian faith.

Practical Considerations include unhealthy associations, dilution of the truth of our message, joining ecumenical organizations such as RICC and WCC, and other entangling alliances. We must be willing to stand on the Word of God as written, and compromise and people pleasing methods should be avoided. The end does not justify the means if it violates the truth. As Christians, let us remember that what we approve, we promote. Although truth is unpopular even in Christian circles, without cultivating truth we will not grow and mature in our Christian lives individually or corporately. [Ephesians 5:1-21](#).