

Doctrine of Separation

1. The doctrine of separation is found in the *Old and New Testament* for God would have a people separate from the world and sin unto Himself.
2. The first usage of the term separate is in association with the trouble between the herdsmen of Lot and Abraham. At the suggestion of Abraham, Lot was to separate himself with his possessions in order for the quarreling to cease.
 - *Genesis 13:9 Is not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.*
3. Though Jacob was being cheated by his father in law he separated the lambs as suggested and still received a blessing from the Lord. The principle is established. The physical prosperity of the believer does not depend upon other people but upon the Lord.
 - *Genesis 30:40 And Jacob did separate the lambs, and set the faces of the flocks toward the ringstraked, and all the brown in the flock of Laban; and he put his own flocks by themselves, and put them not unto Laban's cattle.*
4. When exercised by the wicked the purpose of separation has evil intentions as when the brothers of Joseph sold him into slavery. God would have His people dwell together in peace (Psalm 133:1).
 - *Genesis 49:26 The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.*
 - *Luke 6:22 Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.*
5. When coming into the presence of the Lord the *Old Testament* saints were to sanctify themselves and separate themselves from moral and ceremonial uncleanness.
 - *Leviticus 15:31 Thus shall ye separate the children of Israel from their uncleanness; that they die not in their uncleanness, when they defile my tabernacle that is among them.*
6. The ministers of God are to be considered a set apart people.
 - *Leviticus 22:2 Speak unto Aaron and to his sons, that they separate themselves from the holy things of the children of Israel, and that they profane not my holy name in those things which they hallow unto me: I am the LORD.*
 - *Numbers 8:14 Thus shalt thou separate the Levites from among the children of Israel: and the Levites shall be mine.*

7. In the hearts of some there is desire to seek holiness to an unusual degree. In the *Old Testament* economy a Nazarite vow could be taken by such individuals. Specific conditions were imposed.
 - *Numbers 6:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the LORD:*
 - *Numbers 6:3 He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried.*
8. In times of severe judgment God will instruct the righteous to separate themselves from the unrighteousness.
 - *Numbers 16:21 Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.*
9. God will sanctify and separate not only individuals but cities unto Himself for a stated purpose.
 - *Deuteronomy 19:2 Thou shalt separate three cities for thee in the midst of thy land, which the LORD thy God giveth thee to possess it.*
 - *Deuteronomy 19:7 Wherefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt separate three cities for thee.*
 - *Joshua 16:9 And the separate cities for the children of Ephraim were among the inheritance of the children of Manasseh, all the cities with their villages.*
10. The principle of being separated unto evil is also established in *Scripture*. This takes place when God administers the curses of the covenant.
 - *Deuteronomy 29:21 And the LORD shall separate him unto evil out of all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this book of the law:*
11. God has a separated people on earth. He always has and always will have a separated people. The only question is this, “*Who is on the Lord’s side?*”
 - *1 Kings 8:53 For thou didst separate them from among all the people of the earth, to be thine inheritance, as thou spakest by the hand of Moses thy servant, when thou broughtest our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord GOD.*
 - *Ezra 10:11 Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives.*

12. At the end of time the Lord will gather His people, called “*sheep*”, unto Himself and shall separate them from the “*goats*”.
- *Matthew 25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:*
13. Among the called out assembly the Lord continues to separate individuals for special service.
- *Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.*
14. While the doctrine of separation from the world and evil is of particular importance nothing shall divide or separate the believer from the love of Christ.
- *2 Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*
 - *Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
15. The Supreme Example of One who is separate from sin is Christ.
- *Hebrews 7:26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;*
16. The wicked separate themselves from the righteous in order to be sensual and avoid the convicting and converting work of God the Holy Spirit.
- *Jude 19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.*