

Doctrine of Separation

1. The Lord Jesus said,
 - *John 14:15 If ye love Me, keep My commandments.*
2. God has said,
 - *Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*
3. Christians are to have no fellowship with those who engage in unfruitful works of darkness, but reprove them.
 - *Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.*
4. Christians are not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers.
 - *2 Corinthians 6:14 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.*
5. Separation from those who teach doctrinal error is commanded.
 - *2 John 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.*
6. Christian separation is part of the Christian code of conduct.
 - *2 Thessalonians 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.*
7. Who is the Christian to separate from?
 - *Idolaters. Hosea 4:17 Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone.*

- False Prophets. *2 Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*
 - False Teachers. *1 Timothy 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.*
 - Those Who Cause Division. *Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*
8. Failure to separate from those who are condemned by God subjects the soul to the sin of the same and their judgments.
- *Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*
9. Christians must be on guard and must be able to discern those who would undermine the gospel faith and practice.
- *Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?*
10. The concept of separation is an Old Testament principle and practice as well as a New Testament one.
- *2 Chronicles 19:2 And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD.*
11. Charles Spurgeon has given wise counsel on the issue of separation as he spoke of his own concern for the downgrading of God's Word during his lifetime.

“I dread much the spirit which would tamper with Truth for the sake of united action, or for any other object under heaven the latitudinarian spirit which sneers at creeds and dogmas. TRUTH IS NO TRIFLE! Not so thought our fathers, when at the stake they gave themselves to death, or on the brown heather of Scotland fell beneath the swords of Claverhouse's Dragoons for truth which men nowadays count unimportant, but which being truths were to them so vital that they would sooner DIE than suffer them to be dishonored.

O for the same uncompromising love of truth! I pray God evermore to preserve us from unity in which the truth shall be considered valueless, in which principle gives place to policy, in which the noble and masculine virtues which adorn the Christian hero are to be supplemented by an effeminate affection of charity. May the Lord deliver us from indifference to His word and will ... may God perpetually send some prophet who shall cry aloud to the world, 'Your covenant with death shall be disannulled, your agreement with Hell shall not stand'. May there ever be found some men though they be rough as Amos, or stern as Haggai, who shall denounce again and again all league with error and all compromise with sin, and declare that these are the abhorrence of God ... The destruction of every sort of union which is not based on TRUTH, is a preliminary to the edification of the unity of the Spirit”.

Special Note.

While the concept of separation is a biblical doctrine vocalized mainly by Fundamentalist it is practiced to one degree or another by Catholics, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Baptists, and every cult.

It is ironic to note those Fundamentalist who like to quote Mr. Spurgeon immediately separate themselves from him on the great doctrines of election, predestination, and foreordination. Dr. John R. Rice, Founder and Editor of the *Sword of the Lord* was known to have edited Mr. Spurgeon’s sermons by taking out what he considered to be offensive statements thereby engaging in editorial fraud and misleading every reader of the *Sword*. I doubt if he would have appreciated others misquoting and misrepresenting him.

And what is to be said of those in Fundamentalism who embrace new doctrines, erroneous doctrines such as The Rapture which teaches a secret third coming of Christ in contrast to Acts 1:11 and Hebrews 9:28?

What is to be said of those in Fundamentalism that criticize and condemn the great work of Dr. Billy Graham?

A legalistic preacher once told me that Billy Graham is to be “pitied and prayed for but not quoted.” He objected to my quoting the wit and wisdom of Mr. Graham from time to time in my sermons. He objected to Mr. Graham’s compromising position by allowing non evangelicals to participate in his crusades. Or so he said.

Soon thereafter this same self-righteous and self-appointed critic went and pastored a local Presbyterian church as a Baptist pastor. I am sure he made it clear to the Presbyterians that he would not compromise his position on believer’s baptism and other baptistic beliefs but there he was, condoning and practicing what he professed to condemn in Mr. Graham. I would like to ask him some day how he is different from Mr. Graham. I am sure he has a good answer ready for no one has ever accused Christians of being consistent, especially Fundamentalist.

While the doctrine of separation is a biblical doctrine to be preached and practiced, it should be engaged in with less condemnation, less self-righteousness and with more grace and humility.