

A LINE OF SEPARATION  
2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-18

Introduction:

1. In his writing to the Corinthian church, the Apostle Paul, under the inspiration of God, urges a line of separation between the church and the unbelievers.
2. There is an essential spiritual difference between those who are saved and those who are not. The line of separation is broad and conspicuous. It is between—
  - A. Righteousness and unrighteousness.
  - B. Light and darkness.
  - C. Christ and the devil.
  - D. Faith and infidelity.
  - E. The temple of God and the temple of idols.
3. Corinth was an exceedingly wicked and perverse city. It was noted for its wealth, and for the luxurious and immoral and vicious habits of the people.
4. The worship of Venus, whose temple was there, was attended with shameless debauchery, with 1,000 female slaves being maintained for the service of strangers.
5. Paul understood the danger faced by the church members in living around such sins. If they were not sold out to Jesus it would be easy for them to be associated with the unbelievers.

I. RIGHTEOUSNESS AND UNRIGHTEOUSNESS. **v. 14a b** *Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness?*

- A. Righteousness and unrighteousness have to do with the results of believing or not believing.
- B. When one repents of their sin and trusts in Jesus for salvation, he is immediately made righteous. **Romans 5:19** *For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.*
- C. The word “righteous” means “innocent, holy.” It carries with it the idea of being right with God.
- D. Unrighteous means “guilty.” Of being not right and an enemy to God.
- E. The majority of the citizens of Corinth were not right with God and there was a strong possibility that many in the church could be persuaded to return to the paganistic lifestyle. **2 Corinthians 11:3** *But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

II. LIGHT AND DARKNESS. **v. 14c** *And what communion has light with darkness?*

- A. Those who are saved have the light of Jesus within. **1 Thessalonians 5:5** *You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.*
- B. The idea is, that as there is an entire line of separation between light and darkness in their nature, as they have nothing in common. So it is and should be, between believers and unbelievers.
- C. Unbelievers are in darkness. **John 3:19-20** *And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.*
- D. Why do you think that most crimes are committed at night? Because darkness can hide their wickedness.

*Our recent break in and how he unscrewed lights so he wouldn't be seen.*

III. CHRIST AND BELIAL. v. 15a *And what accord has Christ with Belial?*

- A. The name “Belial” means “worthlessness.” He was a heathen god like Beelzebub and is used as a synonym for the devil.
- B. The idea is, that the persons to whom Paul referred, the pagan, wicked, unbelieving world, were governed by the principles of the devil, and were “taken captive by him at his will.”
- C. Jesus has nothing in common with the devil, so how can a believer in Him have a close intimacy with one who is still under the dominion of the prince of this world?

**1 Corinthians 10:20** *Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.*

- D. Christians should draw a line of separation between themselves and the world. Jesus was separate from all the feelings, purposes, and plans of Satan. He had no participation in them; He formed no union with them; and so it should be with the followers of the One in relation to the followers of the other.

IV. BELIEVER AND UNBELIEVER. v. 15b *Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?*

- A. The believer and the unbeliever are on opposite sides of the spectrum.
- B. The unbeliever’s mind does not focus upon the spiritual, but upon the world.
- C. A believer is supposed to breathe a different atmosphere, to live for fundamentally different ends, and to have entirely different interests and tastes and modes of action, from an unbeliever.
- D. When the children of Israel were about to enter the promised land, God gave specific instruction on drawing a line of separation between them and those who were already dwelling in the land. **Deuteronomy 7:3-4a** *Nor shall you make marriages with them.*

*You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods...*

- E. There is a distinct danger in getting involved with an unbeliever.

V. THE TEMPLE OF GOD AND THE TEMPLE OF IDOLS. v. 16a *And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?*

- A. The church is the Temple of God and as such, must avoid fellowshiping with unbiblical churches, even if they may claim to be Christian.
- B. There is only one truth. It cannot be twisted to fit one’s own opinions, nor can it be twisted in order to gain more adherents. **1 John 5:20** *And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*
- C. There is another danger that I see in some Missionary Baptist churches. They are adopting a style of worship like those mega-churches that seem to put more emphasis on the person rather than on God. It is more like a performance that pleases the flesh and emotional person.

D. There is to be a line of separation between that which is of the flesh and that which is of the spirit. **John 6:63** *It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*

Conclusion:

1. **2 Corinthians 6:17-18** *Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord, Almighty.*