

S – Separation both Personally and Ecclesiastically

Separation was not always used when discussing this issue but this is fundamental to any kind of a Baptist Faith.

Christians lived differently – Christians were distinct in their lifestyle

Things such as....

Separation is not always mentioned as a Baptist distinctive and other groups have certainly been separatistic / separatists.

For Baptists: This is not only taught repeatedly in Scripture but this also is interconnected with Regenerate Church Membership / a Gathered Church, priesthood of all believers, autonomy of the local church....

1. God Himself separates us from the world at salvation.

Acts 15:14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take **out of them** a people for his name.

1 John 5:19 And we know that we are of God, **and** the whole world lieth in wickedness.

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: **1 Peter 2:10** Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Salvation always involves a kind of movement:

- **Out of / from** → the world, sin, death, ugliness
- **To** → a relationship with God and His people
- **For** → for His name, praise, service, glory

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; **but is passed** from death unto life.

Revelation 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: **and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.**

Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

Acts 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing **of the church** unto God for him.

Acts 14:27 And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

Regenerate Church Membership / a Gathered Church fits together perfectly → a local church is a called out assembly → that is separated from the world to God and His people.

2. God commands us to stay / remain separated

2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not **unequally yoked together** (ἑτεροζυγοῦντες ἀπίστοις) with unbelievers....

1 Corinthians 5:9 I wrote unto you in an epistle **not** to company with fornicators: **1 Corinthians 5:10** 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.** **1**

Corinthians 5:11 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.

John 17:14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, **because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.** **John 17:15** I pray **not** that thou shouldest take them out of the world, **but** that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

John 17:16 They are **not** of the world, **even as I am not** of the world.

Thoughts:

- This is obviously **not** a call to withdraw from life / culture
- This is also **not** a call to have no unsaved relationships

- This is **not** a call to withdraw into the wilderness somewhere
- This is **not** a call to withdraw from political involvement, academic advancement, or corporate advancement
- **Nor** is this a call to naiveté!!!

Matthew 10:16

**Behold,
I send you forth
as sheep in the midst of wolves:
be ye therefore wise as serpents,
and harmless as doves.**

- This is a command to **not** be **unequally** yoked together with unbelievers+!
Marriages, close business endeavors, singular friendships....

This is separation from:	
The sinning brother	Mt. 18:15-17
The unrepentant, immoral brother	1 Cor. 5:1-13
The lazy brother	2 Thess. 3:6-15
The disobedient brother	2 Thess. 2:15, 3:6
The heretical brother	Titus 3:10-11

2 John 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. **2 John 10** **If** there come any unto you, and bring **not** this doctrine, receive him **not** into your house, **neither** bid him God speed: **2 John 11** **for** he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

Jude 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. **Jude 4** For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.**

Unequal yokes - when we have close partnerships but do not have:

Common purposes

Common ends

Common guidelines / ethics

Common practical goals (common good / greed)

Common heart concerns (Mt. 7:12)

3. God also requires that we actually separate ecclesiastically – **if / as needed**

2 Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? **for ye are the temple of the living God** (Υμεῖς γὰρ ναὸς θεοῦ ἐστε ζῶντος); 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. **2 Corinthians 6:17** Wherefore come **out** (Ἐξέλθετε ἐκ μέσου αὐτῶν) **from** among them, and be ye separate

(ἀφορίσθητε), saith the Lord, and touch **not** (μὴ ἅπτεσθε) the unclean thing; and I will receive you, **2 Corinthians 6:18** And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

In these verses we have:

A. One statement of fact: for ye are the temple of the living God (Ὑμεῖς γὰρ ναὸς θεοῦ ἐστε ζῶντος)

B. Three commands:

come out (Ἐξέλθετε ἐκ μέσου αὐτῶν) from among them

be ye separate (ἀφορίσθητε)

touch **not** (μὴ ἅπτεσθε) the unclean thing

This would include any ecclesiastical relationship with either unbelief or deliberate disobedience

C. Five rhetorical questions:

2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship (μετοχή) hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion (κοινωνία) hath light with darkness? **2 Corinthians 6:15** And what concord (συμφώνησις) hath Christ with Belial? or what part (μερίς) hath he that believeth with an infidel? **2 Corinthians 6:16** And what agreement (συγκατάθεσις) 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.

Leviticus 19:19 Ye shall keep my statutes. Thou shalt not let thy cattle gender with a diverse kind: thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed: neither shall a garment mingled of linen and woollen come upon thee.

Deuteronomy 22:9 Thou shalt **not** sow thy vineyard with divers seeds: lest the fruit of thy seed which thou hast sown, and the fruit of thy vineyard, be defiled. **Deuteronomy 22:10** Thou shalt **not** plow with an ox and an ass together. **Deuteronomy 22:11** Thou shalt not wear a garment of divers sorts, as of woollen and linen together.

2 Chronicles 18:1 Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab.

D. Seven promises

2 Corinthians 6:16 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.** **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, 2 Corinthians 6:18** And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

4. God extends this separation into the personal life

2 Corinthians 7:1 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.**