

1  **What We Believe**

Truth that Separates

2  **Truth that Separates**

3  **Psalm 26:1-4**

*A Psalm of David. 1 Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide. 2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my reins and my heart. 3 For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: And I have walked in thy truth. 4 I have not sat with vain persons, Neither will I go in with dissemblers.*

4  **Psalm 26:5-8**

*5 I have hated the congregation of evil doers; And will not sit with the wicked. 6 I will wash mine hands in innocency: So will I compass thine altar, O LORD: 7 That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, And tell of all thy wondrous works. 8 LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, And the place where thine honor dwelleth*

5  **Psalm 26:9-12**

*9 Gather not my soul with sinners, Nor my life with bloody men: 10 In whose hands is mischief, And their right hand is full of bribes. 11 But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: Redeem me, and be merciful unto me. 12 My foot standeth in an even place: In the congregations will I bless the LORD.*

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7  **Call for self-examination**

- Psalm 26:1–3 — *Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide. 2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my reins and my heart. 3 For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: And I have walked in thy truth.*
- Even when David believed that he had walked in integrity, he asks God to check his innermost thoughts and motivations.
  - “Reins” – unseen motivations (e.g. kidneys unctio silent and unseen)
  - “Heart” – refers to the soul here
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8  **Purpose for separation**

- Psalm 26:4–8 — *4 I have not sat with vain persons, Neither will I go in with dissemblers. 5 I have hated the congregation of evil doers; And will not sit with the wicked. 6 I will wash mine hands in innocency: So will I compass thine altar, O LORD: 7 That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, And tell of all thy wondrous works. 8 LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, And the place where thine honor dwelleth*
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9  **Purpose for separation (2)**

- Failure to separate leads to a life of vanity (v.4)
- Failure to separate leads to a life of evil-doing (v. 5)
- Separation is essential to worship (v. 6)

- Separation is a credential to our testimony (v. 7). We are IN the world but not to be OF the world.
- Separation is essential to our fellowship with God (v. 8)
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10  **Precedence of purification**

- Psalm 26:9–12 — *Gather not my soul with sinners, Nor my life with bloody men: 10 In whose hands is mischief, And their right hand is full of bribes. 11 But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: Redeem me, and be merciful unto me. 12 My foot standeth in an even place: In the congregations will I bless the LORD.*
- David knew separation was key to:
  - Avoiding compromise with evil
  - Walking in integrity
  - Blessing (praising) the Lord

11  **What separation is NOT**

- It is NOT being stuck-up
  - We are sinners saved by grace
  - We are not saying it is “our way or the highway”
  - We need to remember that we are not the standard of faith and practice. THAT IS THE JOB OF THE WORD OF GOD!
- It is NOT total non-contact with the world
  - We are here to tell others about Jesus!
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12  **1 Corinthians 5:9-11**

*I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: 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. 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.*

13  **1 Corinthians 5:12-13**

*12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? 13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.*

- We are to reach the lost (those that “are without”) by taking the Gospel to them
- We are not to fellowship with those claiming to Christians but living wickedly

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15  **1 John 2:15-17**

*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth*

*away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

16  **Be personally separate from:**

- Lust of the flesh = immorality
- Lust of the eyes = greed
- Pride of life = bitterness
- Love of the world
  - The world system (unregenerate people governed by Satan and his philosophy)
  - Worldliness -- Friendship toward or a desire for the world system
    - Avoid anything that identifies us with world system, hinders our love for God, or hinders our testimony

17  **2 Corinthians 6:14-16**

*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 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. .*

18  **2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1**

*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. 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.*

19  **Practical separation**

- Avoid being YOKED together with unbelievers or worldly Christians
  - Yoked = pulling in the same harness
- Avoid partnerships
  - Auto parts house illustration
- Avoid close fellowship with those not living for Christ
  - You may have 5 “best friends” in a lifetime
- We not to be in a covenant, contract, or share with these people

20  **Romans 12:1-2**

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

- *Conformed* = have same image, manner, dress, and bearing

21  **Necessity of personal separation**

- We are God’s Temple – Worship (6:16)

- God is particular who comes into His Temple
- Psalm 15 -- — *A Psalm of David. 1 LORD, Who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? 2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart. 3 He that backbites not with his tongue, Nor doeth evil to his neighbor, Nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor. 4 In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; But he honors them that fear the LORD. He that swears to his own hurt, and changes not. 5 He that putteth not out his money to usury, Nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.*

22  **Necessity of personal separation (2)**

- We are God's people – Holiness
- Temple (2 Corinthians 6:16)
  - God is particular who comes into His Temple
  - *Haggai 2:11–14 — Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ask now the priests concerning the law, saying, If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No. Then said Haggai, If one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean. Then answered Haggai, and said, So is this people, and so is this nation before me, saith the LORD; And so is every work of their hands; And that which they offer there is unclean.*

23  **Result of personal separation**

- Experience the presence of God
  - 2 Cor 6:17 – *Touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you*
- A close relationship with the Father (v. 18)
  - *And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*
- Preserve holiness and spiritual integrity (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.*

24

25  **What is a false teacher?**

- It is someone who professes to be a Christian but misleads others by teaching and preaching false doctrine
- Galatians 1:8–9 *But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*

26  **2 John 9–11**

*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.*

- So, is it really OK to attend a church where they teach false doctrine because it is “mostly OK?”

27  **Avoid false teachers and teaching**

- Romans 16:17–18 *Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple*
  - Simple – those easily led astray, impressionable, lacking in discernment
  - 2 Peter 2 – A whole chapter devoted to the subject of false teachers

28  **Avoid “babblings”**

- *Babblings* = empty talk (words without Scriptural foundation)
- 1 Timothy 6:20–21 -- *O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: 21 Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.*
  - So if a church teaching is not backed by Scripture, it is babbling.

29  **Essential Gospel truths**

- The full inspiration, inerrancy and authority of the Bible
- The virgin birth of Christ
- Christ’s deity and perfect humanity
- Christ’s absolute sinlessness
- Salvation is provide only by the atoning death of Christ on the cross and received only by an act of faith which receives Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior

30  **Essential Gospel truths**

- The atoning blood of Christ
- Christ’s resurrection
- Christ’s personal return
- The reality of heaven and hell
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On these issues there can be no compromise!

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31  **The “math” of cults**

- + Adds to the Word of God (the Bible)
- - Subtracts from the Deity of Christ
- x Multiplies Salvation requirements
- / Divides the body of Christ
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32  **Other differences**

- Manner in which ordinances are practiced
  - Lord’s supper
  - Baptism

- Type of church government
- Version of the Bible used
- While we can hold strong beliefs about how these things are done, they are not essential to the Gospel and do not prevent us fellowshiping with other groups who are different – SO LONG as they are not violating the Gospel essentials

33  **Necessity of ecclesiastical separation**

- To preserve good doctrine
  - 1 Timothy 4:6 (KJV 1900) — *If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.*
  - This is the reason that Ananias and Sapphira punished so severely

34  **Necessity of ecclesiastical separation**

- To protect God's people from error
  - Acts 20:28 — *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*
  - Parallels -- nutrition vs. poison

35  **Necessity of ecclesiastical separation**

- 2 Peter 2:1–2 — *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.*
- Heresy = truth out of balance; error
- Leads to a corruption of the Gospel

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37  **Conclusion**

- Focus for a moment on the issue of personal separation from:
  - The love of the world (compromise that weakens your testimony and your love for the Lord)
  - The lust of the flesh (immorality)
  - The lust of the eyes (greed)
  - The pride of life (bitterness)
- Take this as an opportunity of confession