

**“HOLINESS IS FILLED WITH
PROMISE”**
2 Corinthians 6:11-7:1

INTRODUCTION

Paul often put his neck on the line for the Corinthians, yet many false teachers were lying about his intentions. He greatly valued the brotherhood of that church. He loved them and opened his heart to them, but they didn't reciprocate. Paul desired the Corinthians to respond back. It is certainly a great disappointment, when giving out the truth, the antidote to problems, that sound counsel is ignored or rejected.

SEPARATION

The key message that Paul was trying to convey was that of separation. Separate from the false teachers. They pull us away from the truth and the One who is the Truth! The concepts of consecration and sanctification are the Biblical terms. Consecration is separation and dedication to God. Sanctification is the pursuit of holiness.

The position of the Christian is one of messenger, ambassador, or minister. The Corinthians were to have been new creations in Christ, **2 Corinthians 5:17**. Formerly they were children of disobedience, but became the children of light, **Ephesians 5:6, 7**. The “prince of this world”, our adversary, is at odds with us. Because of the change in us, our relationship with the world is now different.

Sanctification requires a separation unto God, but not isolation. We are to be salt, and light in this world, but not absorbed by it either. Jesus was a friend of sinners, not to participate in sin, but to call them to repentance. A classic example was when Jesus went to the house of Zacchaeus.

Our calling is to have the right balance. We are to have contact with the world, but not be contaminated. We still need that cutting edge in our walk. Pure religion from the world is to stay unspotted, **James 1:27**. In the world we need to have backbone. We must resist worldly values, standards, jokes, music and movies. We need to maintain the godly standards that are revealed in the Scriptures.

THE YOKE

Many have wondered what a “yoked” relationship is. It is an agricultural term used in plowing. **Deut 22:10,11**. The ox and donkey have different natures from each other and do not work well together in an animal yoke. Not every relationship is a yoke. The idea of permanence is involved, something that is not easily broken or something that restricts action. This could be a business partner, or a relationship that may lead to marriage. In both cases we need to share the same spiritual passion and goals. Jesus and Satan obviously are not in agreement. Trying to live a life under the influence of both only leads to discord and confusion!

We are considered God's temple, so our most important relationship is with Him! There are 3 aspects to this, **(1)** the individual, 1 Corinth. 2, **(2)** the local church, 1 Corinthians 3, and **(3)** in this chapter Paul is referring to the universal church. God's desire is to dwell with His people! He wants to have first place in our lives. That is why idols are so offensive to Him! Idols rob God of the affection and attention that He deserves!

CONSIDER

When Paul quotes **Isaiah 52:11**, Israel was leaving Babylon to go to Jerusalem. They were to go away from that worldly influence and be different. They were to be transformed. A close relationship with God depends on the principle of separation. *Purpose to have a loving relationship with your Heavenly Father apart from the spiritual bondage of the world! We'll experience the full effect of Him as our Father when we listen and obey Him!*

PRAY.....

- * That the Lord would pour out His Spirit on our Pastors Conference.
- * That our Savior would work mightily in Calvary Chapel Academy and the School of Ministry this year.
- * That our political leaders would allow us to live quiet and peaceable lives so we may serve Him! (1 Tim. 2:1-4).