



How Far Will I Go to Break  
with the World?

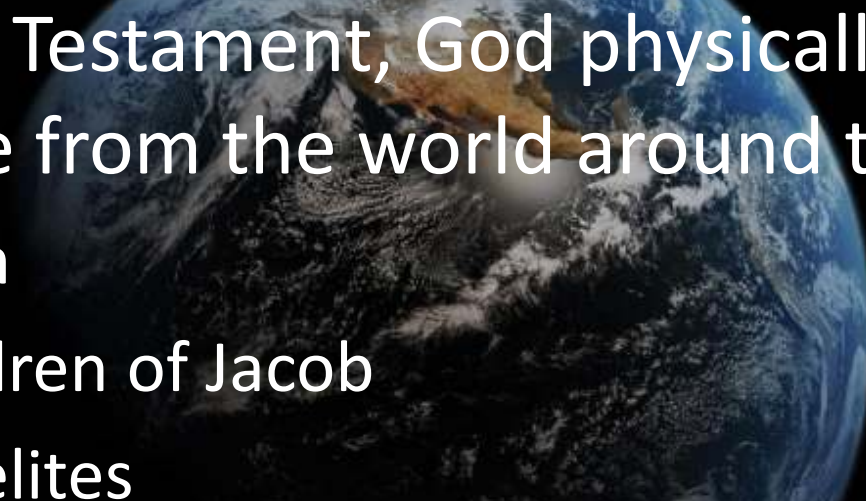
2Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1

# What Does This Mean For Christians?



- 2Cor. 6:14 - 7:1 - “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people. 17 Therefore Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. 18 I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty. 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

# How Far Will I Go to Break with the World?

- In the Old Testament, God physically separated His people from the world around them.
    - Abraham
    - The children of Jacob
    - The Israelites
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# How Far Will I Go to Break with the World?

- The Kingdom of God is within our hearts, minds, and spirits, while our bodies that house our souls are in this physical world
  - Luke 17:20-21 - “Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, The kingdom of God does not come with observation; 21 nor will they say, See here! or See there! For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”

# How Far Will I Go to Break with the World?

- John 18:36 - “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here”
- 2Cor. 4:6-7 - “For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”



## How Far Will I Go to Break with the World?

- We cannot physically separate ourselves from the world, nor does the Divine wish us to do so
  - John 17:14-16 - “I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”

## How Far Will I Go to Break with the World?

- While our bodies live in this world, and therefore we must interact with the world, we do so conformed to the image of Christ and not the world
  - Rom. 12:1-2 - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

# How Far Will I Go to Break with the World?



- In fact, to physically separate from the world defies the Lord's instructions to be in the world as light, salt, messengers of God, et al
  - Matt. 5:13-16 - "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."
  - Phil 2:15 - "That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world"



# Not Separated From The World; Separated Unto God



- Jesus is our pattern in this
  - Heb. 7:26 - “For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens”
  - Heb. 4:14-15 - “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

# Not Separated From The World; Separated Unto God

- Jesus was among the sinners
  - Luke 15:1-2 - “Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, This Man receives sinners and eats with them.”
  - Luke 5:29-32 - “Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them. 30 And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners? 31 Jesus answered and said to them, Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

# Not Separated From The World; Separated Unto God

- But Jesus did not sin
  - 1Peter 2:21-23 - “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously”

# Not Separated From The World; Separated Unto God

- What religious group isolated themselves from sinners?
- In the world among sinners, but separated from sin; separated from God in this world, but separated unto God in spirit and in life. Sanctified, holy, set apart for God and His purposes.

# What Is Biblical Separation?



- It is being fundamentally different from the world around us, sanctified, consecrated, dedicated to God first and only
- Biblical separation is the practice of separating from sin and error so that we can live in truth and righteousness.
- It is separating ourselves from temptation that leads to sin
  - Rom. 13:14 - “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”
  - 1Peter 2:11 - “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul”



# What Is Biblical Separation?

- Christians are different, not by accident of physical birth, but by our choice to be reborn with a new nature by God's original design
  - 2Cor. 5:17 - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

# What Is Biblical Separation?



- God does not call on us to be bizarre, but to be special, enabling us to illustrate and broadcast His plan for humankind
  - 1Peter 2:9-10, 12 - “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy... 12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

# What Is Biblical Separation?



- Our difference from the world manifests our new family and Divine heritage
  - John 8:44 - “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”
  - 2Cor. 3:18 - “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”
  - Col. 3:9-10 - “...You have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him”

# Why Must We Be Different From The World?

- Because we are now of God, not of this world
  - Titus 2:14 - “Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”
  - 1Cor. 6:19-20 - “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.”

# Why Must We Be Different From The World?

- Because God is Holy; therefore, we must be holy to be of Him
  - 1John 1:5 - “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”
  - 1Peter 1:15-16 - “But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, Be holy, for I am holy.”



# Why Must We Be Different From The World?

- Because we cannot live in two worlds at the same time
  - Gal. 1:4 - “Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father”
  - Luke 16:13 - “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”
  - 1John 2:15 - “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

# How Do We Live Separate From The World Without Going Out Of This World?

- By choosing to
  - Deut. 7:11-12, 26 - “Therefore you shall keep the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to observe them. 12 Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers.”
  - James 4:8 - “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

## How Do We Live Separate From The World Without Going Out Of This World?

- By holding tightly to that choice daily
  - 1John 1:7, 9 - “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin... 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”