

Deuteronomy Chapter 7:1-6

- This chapter is in general about separation, actually about sanctification – being set apart for God’s exclusive use, for His exclusive pleasure.
- Separation from those things that defile – Holiness unto the Lord.

Jesus tells us:

Matthew 5:13-14 “¹³Ye are the salt of the earth...: ¹⁴Ye are the light of the world...”

- We’re called to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to influence others for the Lord.
- Believers can be separated from the world and from sin and still be involved in the normal challenges and activities of human existence.
- Jesus is the best example of this:

Matthew 11:19 “Jesus was a friend of publicans and sinners”

Yet at the same time describing Jesus:

Hebrews 7:26 “For such an High Priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens:”

- In scripture, separation is not the same as isolation.

The call of Abraham:

Genesis 12:1 “Now the Lord had said unto Abram, get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee.”

- Abram was called out from amongst his country, people, and family; separated, set apart. God led him where? To the land that would eventually be known as Israel.

Genesis 12:2-3 “²And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

- God promised Abram that He would make of him a great nation, meaning his descendants.
- The problem was that Abram was 75 years old and his wife Sarai was 10 years behind him, and they hadn’t had any children.
- Several years after making this promise God changed Abram’s name to Abraham which means father of nations.

- When Abraham was 100 years old, and when Sarah was 90 their son Isaac was born.
- Later when it was time for Isaac to take a wife we read:

Genesis 24:3 “And I will make thee swear by the Lord, the God of heaven, and the god of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell.”

- Here we see that God had put it into Abraham’s heart to be separate, not to intermarry with the Canaanites because God had a purpose for this nation – they were to be separate but we can also see that they were not isolated – they dwelt among the Canaanites.
- Separate, distinct, sanctified for God’s purposes – not isolated.

1 Peter 2:9 “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light.”

- We’re called to be in the world but not of the world:

1 Corinthians 5:9-11 ⁹“I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: ¹⁰Yet 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. ¹¹But 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.”

- What does it look like to be in the world and not of the world? Simply living our lives according to God Word, this will make us different and separate.
- Jesus had contact with the real world and its people but He wasn’t contaminated from that contact. True biblical separation is contact without contamination.
- We’re called to be different from the world but not odd.
- When we’re different we attract people and have opportunities to share the good news of Christ; but when we’re odd, we repel people and we lose that opportunity to share.
- The children of Israel were given instruction and direction on how to live their lives which would make them different:
- First and foremost they worshipped their one God – they were mono-theistic as opposed to everyone around them who were poly-theistic.

- Their worship was always God centered and God focused, they worshipped sacrificially, they worshipped by faith.
- 1. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy describes worship that is truly God centered and focused on the God who is righteous, holy, and true – by a people who fall short because of sin.
- 2. Whether it is the burnt offering of sanctification or the meat offering of thanksgiving or any of the others it's about their relationship with God, having fellowship with Him, being focused on Him.
- 3. The pagan cultures worship lesser things, created things VS: the creator Himself which made the children of Israel different.
- 4. The pagan worship often involved sexual practices that greatly focused on the worshipper – self gratifying worship, in other words it was self focused.
- 5. Other forms of “worship” involved killing the children conceived in the previous forms of worship sacrificing them to the god of convenience – self or man focused as opposed to God focused.

1 John 2:16 “The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.”

- 6. There were the Jewish dietary laws, different from the cultures around them.
- 7. The Sabbath day set them apart, made them different.
- 8. There were other things, but the point is that their lives looked different.

Deuteronomy 7:14 “Thou shalt be blessed above all people...”

- They were to be different, distinct – worshipping what they called the true and living God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – and they were indeed truly a blessed people.
- This was to provoke the other people to jealousy, to want to also worship this true and living God.
 - That is in part how people will be drawn to the Christian life by our differences, not our conformity to the culture.
 - Anyone that is really looking honestly will figure out that the norms of our culture don't work when it comes to the real issues of life.
 - Psychology is a great example of this – the wisdom of man, which is foolishness to God.
 - Over 75% of the care givers in psychology are under psychological care themselves. Over 50% are on psych meds.

Jesus gave us a new commandment that would impact the world:

John 13:34-35 ³⁴“A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have love you, that ye also love one another. ³⁵By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

1 John 2:5-6 ⁵“But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him. ⁶He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.”

- That will make us different – just being obedient to God’s word.

Jesus prayed:

John 17:15-17 ¹⁵“I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. (separate, not isolated) ¹⁷Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

- Our lives will look very different.
- God’s word will impact our lives; impacting our marriages, our employment, every relationship, our finances – it will all be different.

Psalms 1:1-3 ¹“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doeth he meditate day and night. ³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 ¹⁴“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, ¹⁸and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

- Being obedient to God’s word, coming out of the world – the most radical different thing we can do for starters is to become a born again Christian.

John 6:28-29 ²⁸“Then said they unto Him, what shall we do, that we might work the works of God? ²⁹Jesus answered and said unto them, this is the work of God, that ye believe on Him who He hath sent.”

- Come to grips with the truth of the Bible, believe on it, act on it!

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”