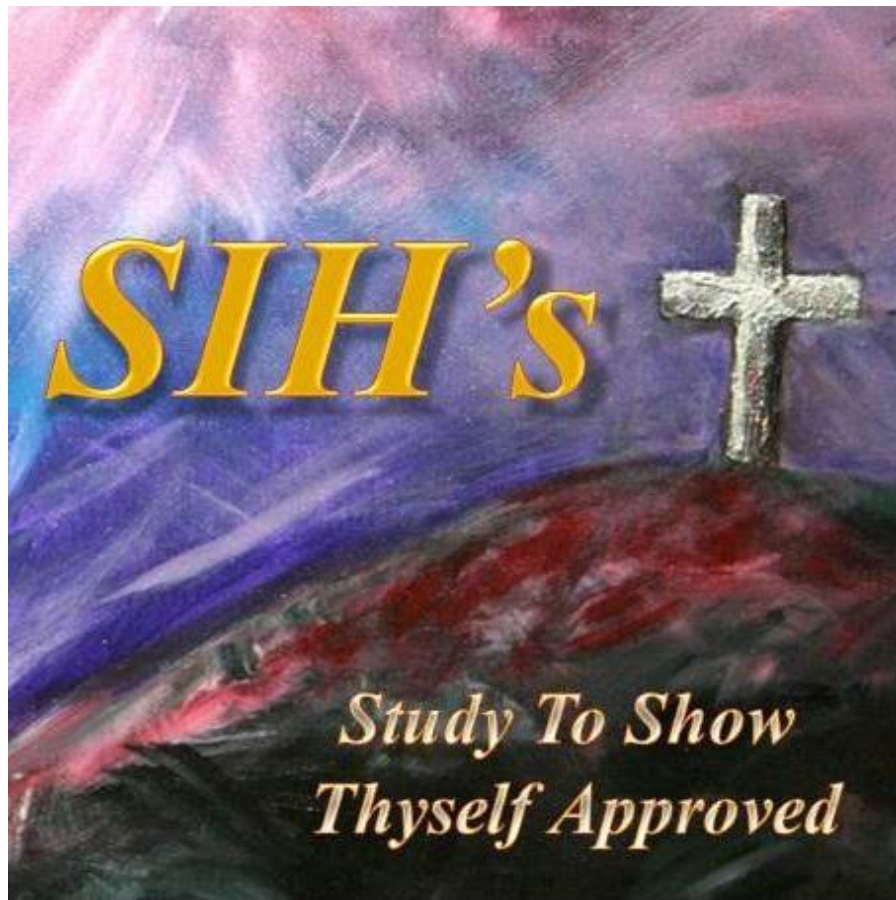


Settled In Heaven's

The Call To Separation

Living Life For Christ In The Midst Of A Fallen World



Robert Barkman

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“The Call To Separation: The Mandate”

1Pet 2:9-10 (KJV) - 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: 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.

In this verse, we find a wonderful truth that applies to the people of God. Note the six-fold description of those who have received His gracious salvation:

1. **“a chosen generation”** – We have been chosen by Him, based upon His love, to be holy and without blame before Him and to be adopted into His family (Eph 1:4-5)
2. **“a royal priesthood”**- We have been granted the privilege of being given access to the throne of grace to find grace and help in time of need (Heb 4:14-16)
3. **“a holy nation”**- We have been made given His law in our minds and hearts, graciously given forgiveness, we have been made new creatures in Him, and given citizenship into His spiritual nation (the Israel of God). (Gals 6:14-16, Heb 8:10-12)
4. **“peculiar people”** – He has purchased and purified us so that we might be used of Him (Titus 2:13-14)
5. **“the people of God”** – We are no longer strangers but now members of His family and citizens of His city (Roms 9:25-26, Eph 2:17-19)
6. Those who **“have now obtained mercy”**- We who were separated from Him due to our sin, was forgiven, and brought into communion and joint-heirship with Him. (Eph 2:4-9)

Do you notice how in all of the above there is shared a basic principle? It is the principle of separation. In every case, God’s workings in our lives resulted in us being separated from the lost world. In every case, He worked in a special way as He **“called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”**.

Although this separation was a divine act of God, based solely upon His grace, the aspect of separation goes much further. In this study, we will be examining the mandate that God has given to His people to live lives of separation FROM the sin of this world TO His divine service. Our calling to separation will clearly display, to all mankind, that we are the people of God.

In other words, because He has already separated us from the world, we are to live lives that reflect that separation to others.

1Thess 4:7 (KJV) **For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.**

1Cor 15:33-34 (KJV) **Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak [this] to your shame.**

THE SCRIPTURES:

Lev 20:7-8	Matt 11:28-30	John 14:21-24	1Cor 1:1-2
2Cor 6:13-18	1Thess 4:7	Heb 12:1-3	1Pet 1:13-16
1 Pet 2:9-10	1 John 5:3	Jude 1:4	

THE STUDY:

Probably the clearest phrase that expresses our need of living lives of separation is "Be ye holy for I am holy". This phrase and those that closely relate are found in Lev 20:7-8...

"Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I [am] the LORD your God. And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I [am] the LORD which sanctify you."

(see also Lev 11:43-47, and Lev 19:1-10).

In these verses, we find the Lord, speaking to the physical nation in Israel, instructing them to live lives of separation by keeping the moral, civil and ceremonial laws which He had given to them. By keeping these laws, they would be outwardly declaring to the other nations that they were owned by Jehovah and therefore, were willingly submissive to His authority. He had set them apart as His own **"I am the Lord which sanctify you"**, therefore they were to live lives that proclaimed this separation to others **"Sanctify yourselves..."**

At this point, you are probably saying.... "So what does this have to do with me? I am certainly not a citizen of the OT nation of Israel, nor am I responsible to keep His OT national and ceremonial laws." I would have to agree with you on both points. However, in spite of those differences, we will find that these texts, based upon Peter's writings, do directly affect us after all...

1 Pet 1:13-16 **Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.**

Here, as Peter writes, he clearly refers to the OT verses that command separation of the physical Israelites. He is speaking to those who those who will receive **"grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ"** and **"obedient children"**. In these verses, He is clearly referring to those who are NT believers. What is our responsibility in New Testament times? They are the same responsibilities as the Israelites of old... to live lives of

separation from the world. In doing so, we will be declaring to those around us that we are a children of the Holy God, Jehovah. We are members of His family and are willingly submissive to His will for our lives.

We are taught this principle in 2Cor 6:13-18 (KJV)...

Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto [*my*] children,) be ye also enlarged. Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 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. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [*thing*]; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Also we see this in Heb 8:7-13 (KJV)...

"... Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:... I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, A new [*covenant*], he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old [*is*] ready to vanish away.

As part of God's new covenant He has made with all believers (the Israel of God – Gals 6:14-18). He has given us the laws of God in our hearts and minds. In other words, for those who are saved, He gives to us a knowledge (in our minds) and a desire to obey (in our hearts) His commands and do what is pleasing in His sight.

For those who are true believers, we are no longer under the bondage and obligation to keep His commands perfectly to escape eternal torment. We have been saved and granted His righteousness, we are now free from the law of sin and death.

However, we now DESIRE to do His will not out of necessity for our salvation, but out of appreciation, love and desire to obey His will. When we are made into a new creature, we no longer are enslaved to His law as a merciless slave master, but are now children of God whose privilege it is to serve our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord...

We see in 1 John 5:3 ...

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Also in John 14:21-24...

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

It is because of these two facts (we have been separated from the world and separated to God by an act of His grace AND we are to separate ourselves from the wickedness in this world) that we are given the title "saint". The title saint is used both in the Old Testament and the New Testaments to refer to those have exercised their faith in the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

What does the title "Saint" mean?

In Old Testament we find the words for "saint" come from two prime roots:

1. qadash which carries with it the basic idea of being "prepared for use by separation".
2. chacad means being "faithful, kind and Godly"

In the New Testament we find the word saint being translated from one word:

1. hagios which means "to be set apart through cleanness"

Based on the above, what is the basic meaning of "saint"?

We can see that a saint is simply "One that is prepared for God's use by being made separate from the filth of sin of this world".

He is one that is characterized as "Faithful to God, kind to others and, as such, is an image of God in this world.

1Cor 1:1-2 - ... to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called [*to be*] saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

BECAUSE we have been separated BY Him in an act of GRACE,...

THEN we are called to be separated TO Him in an act of LOVE and GRATITUDE.

This is what being a saint is all about.

It is to glorify God in our lives for all that He has done for us! This is the life to which we are called.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

For those who have been made separate to His service by His wondrous grace....

Let us reflect on the writings of the author of Hebrews, who tells us in Heb 12:1-3....

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [*us*], and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [*our*] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

For those who have yet to be separated from the bondage of sin

Understand that all that is required for you to come to Him in a spirit of repentance and faith casting your sin upon Him. Matt 11:28-30.....

Come unto me, all [*ye*] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke [*is*] easy, and my burden is light.

May the Lord bless you as you seek His truth.

“The Call To Separation: The Standard”

Rom 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. 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.**

We are given the divine call to live lives of holiness. That is, to live lives that are “**not conformed to this world but transformed**” into lives that are a “**living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God**”. This is the divine call to separation that He has given to each of His saints.

To come to a proper understanding of this call we need to understand what this separation entails. What are some of the specifics that we need to understand if we are to live separated lives for Him?...

In 2 Pet 1:3-4, we are told that “**According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that [*pertain*] unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**

We can know all things that apply to living Godly lives through “**knowledge of God**” and His “**exceeding great and precious promises**”. Where can we find the “the knowledge of God” and “His exceeding great and precious promises” revealed to us? We can find them exclusively within the pages of His Word. It is within the pages of His Word that we can learn all the specifics concerning our call to separation....

2Tim 3:16-17 - **All scripture [*is*] given by inspiration of God, and [*is*] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.**

Here, we find a clear declaration of the purposes of the Word of God. These purposes are described as:

1. **doctrine** - teachings
2. **reproof** – to show error

3. **correction** – to show how to remedy the error
4. **instruction in righteousness** – to show how to live Godly lives

When the Word is applied to our lives the following two results are exhibited in our lives:

1. **perfect** – spiritually mature, spiritually complete, whole
2. **thoroughly furnished unto all good works**– completely furnished to perform works that are pleasing to God

The God-breathed Word is the basis for all instructions pertaining to living our lives and godliness. If we simply look to His Word and follow its divine dictates we will find ourselves living lives of separation from sin to His service.

This is why the Lord Himself said in Matt 4:4, “**It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**” Not only is it through His Word that we find the gospel message that shows us the way to eternal life, but also, everything that we need to know to live a life that is well pleasing to God.

Let’s take a moment and look at the standard for holy living that He has given to us in His Word.

THE SCRIPTURES:

Psalms 119:1-150	Matt 4:4	Matt 5:17-20	Matt 7:21-27
John 1:45	John 5:39	John 12:48-49	John 17:17-19
Romans 3:19-20	Romans 3:28-31	Romans 7:12	Romans 12:1-2
2 Tim 2:14-16	2 Tim 3:16-17	James 1:22-25	2 Peter 1:3-4
1 John 3:1-4	Revelation 20:12		

THE STUDY:

The Word of God, the container of His divine standard for holy living, is multi-faceted and all encompassing. To illustrate the many aspects of God’s Word, notice the variety of descriptions that His Word is given in Psalm 119:...

1. **Law** – emphasizes the unity and completeness of His Word
2. **Word** – emphasizes the fact that His Word is spoken by God to man.
3. **Judgments** – emphasizes His Word is based upon His decision making. Also emphasizes the finality of His Word
4. **Testimonies** – His Word is His witness to man. He is revealing to us what He has personally seen and experienced as the Eternal God.

5. **Commandments** – The Word is not a series of “suggestions”, it is our individual responsibility to keep His Word
6. **Statutes** - His Word is appointed to us. It is personally, specifically handed to each of us.
7. **Precepts** – His Word is given by God as an act of His oversight and care for us.

Based on the above we can begin to get a glimpse of the complexity and completeness of God’s Word.

The importance of God’s Word for the Christian is taught by Christ Himself....

Matt 5:17-20 - Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach [them], the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed [the righteousness] of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Here, we find that the entire Word of God, both Old and New Testaments is applicable to His people as they seek to live lives that are honoring and pleasing to Him. Notice what is said... the law and prophets were fulfilled by Christ, but not done away at His first coming. Through His life, He established their truthfulness and validity, but did not bring their relevance to an end. Even the ceremonial laws of God, which are no longer to be practiced, are still valuable in our understanding of the person, nature, attributes and work of the Messiah. Every part of the Word is still of value for Christians in today’s time. Likewise, the civil commands that only pertain to the physical nation of Israel, can be used by others as a source of instruction concerning the justice and Kingship of the Messiah.

Those who break the least of the moral commandments found in His Word and teach others to do the same will hold a low position in His eternal kingdom that will arrive at His second coming. But those who uphold His Word through obedience, and then teach others to do the same, will hold a high position in His coming kingdom. Why is this? It is because by keeping the dictates of His Word we will find ourselves living lives of separation from sin and to His service.

In the above verses Christ also reminds us that these commands were not given to save anyone. Why then were they given?

1. They were given to define and reveal sin - Rom 3:19-20...

“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law [is] the knowledge of sin.”

2. They were given to reveal Jesus – John 1:45 & John 5:39...

“Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

3. They were given to equip us for service to God – Psa 119:1-11; 1 Jhn 3:1-4 ...

“ALEPH. Blessed [*are*] the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed [*are*] they that keep his testimonies, [*and that*] seek him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways. Thou hast commanded [*us*] to keep thy precepts diligently. O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments. I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments. I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly. BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed [*thereto*] according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”

When we see all the wonderful benefits of the law of God it is no wonder that Paul describes the entirety of God’s Word as Rom 7:12....

“Wherefore the law [*is*] holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.”

You see, although men are not saved through the keeping of the law that does not mean that the law has no value in the life of a Christian... as a matter of fact, the opposite is true. Roms 3:28-31...

“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. [*Is he*] the God of the Jews only? [*is he*] not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: Seeing [*it is*] one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.”

Here we are told that although the Christian had been saved by grace through faith without the deeds of the law, the law is still applicable to his life. As a matter of fact, we are to "establish" the law. The idea of "establish" carries with it the idea of "to cause to stand", "to plant firmly", "to support", "to hold up". How does the Christian establish the law of God? We "support" His law by living our lives in accordance to it. In other words, when we choose to abstain from lying we are "holding up" God's command that says "thou shalt not bear false witness". When we live our day in a prayerful, submissive attitude to God, wanting to be shown His will, we are "planting firmly" God's command to "pray without ceasing". The list can go on and on.

We can easily see that the Word is our instructions for living that He has given to us. Because of this, it will also be the ultimate standard to which we are held accountable and by which we will be judged in the last days (John 12:48-49, Rev 20:12)....

"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak."

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is [the book] of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Here we read about the final judgment based upon two criteria "the book of life" (a listing of all of those God has chosen to salvation) and "the books" (the 66 books of the Bible whereby our works will be judged) (see also Dan 7:9-10)

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

For those who have been made separate to His service by His wondrous grace....

We have seen "the Word of Truth", God's Word is the life standard we are to use as we seek to fulfill our call to separation in John 17:17-19...

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth."

Based upon this standard we have a two-fold responsibility...

1. We are to be faithful in our study of God's Word. By this we can be knowledgeable of our divine standard. We can see this principle in 2 Tim 2:14-16....

Of these things put [*them*] in remembrance, charging [*them*] before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, [*but*] to the subverting of the hearers. Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane [*and*] vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

2. We are to honestly compare our life with the Word, using it as a mirror to reflect our shortcomings and areas needing change we can see that in James 1:22-25....
But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth [*therein*], he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

For those who have yet to be separated from the bondage of sin

When a person desires to live their life as they please with no respect for God's desires, this indicates that the individual in question has never received forgiveness of their sins, nor have they ever become a new creature in Christ. In this condition, they are destined for a great fall. A fall that will result in entering an eternity separated from God and receiving eternal punishment for their sins. We can see this principle clearly illustrated in Matt 7:21-27...

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."

May the Lord bless you as you seek His truth.

“The Call To Separation: The Perversion”

1Jn 5:1-3 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

This is a very important principle that we do not want to quickly skim over. As believers, we count it a privilege to submit to our Lord's commands out of an appreciative, loving, heart realizing all He has done for us. This is a universal truth that applies to all who are saved. If we find someone without this attitude of love and desire to obey, we are to question their salvation.

But sad to say, throughout the ages there have been those who have attempted to pervert the grace and righteousness of Christ by using it as a cloak for disobeying their Savior. 1 Pet 2:15-17....

For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using [your] liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honour all [*men*]. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

We see this same principle addressed in Jude 1:4 ...

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.

Let's take a closer look at the error that teaches we can use God's grace as the basis for allowing sin to dwell in the life of a believer.

THE SCRIPTURES:

John 14:26

Romans 6:1-23

1 Peter 1:22-23

1 Peter 2:15-17

1 John 4:1-3

1 John 5:1-3

Jude 1:4

THE STUDY:

The longest passage that deals with the subject of sin in the life of one who has been saved by God's grace is found in Romans 6:1-23....

1) What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

2) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

We are told that God "forbids" (ie by no means, in no way, absolutely not) a Christian to live a lifestyle of sin motivated by the fact that God's grace will continue to forgive and cover that sin. It only makes sense that this should be forbidden... Why? Because when saved we are now "dead" to sin. How can we then continue to habitually commit sin?

What does it mean to be "dead" to sin? It doesn't mean "unable to sin" or else this section of scripture makes no sense. It is clear from these verses, it is possible for believers to commit sin and this is why we must be warned against allowing sin to dwell in our lives.

As believers, it is possible for us to commit sin, but we should no longer allow sin to rule and commune in our lives. Why? We have been freed from the bondage of sin and we have been given a new nature which allows us to now live for God. This is what it means to be "dead" to sin (see more details in vs 6-11)

3) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also [*in the likeness*] of [*his*] resurrection:

Our baptism was an outward, visible evidence of our death to sin and new life in Christ. If we begin to get confused about our relationship to sin and the service of the Lord just remember our baptism. We are dead to sin (buried in the water) and now alive to Christ (raised from the water).

6) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [*him*], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

7) For he that is dead is freed from sin.

8) Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

9) Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

10) For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

11) Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Here we can see the meaning of being dead to sin... it is like a crucifixion. Our old man (our sin nature that was received at our conception) loved sin, served sin and chose sin. We sinned due to bondage, desire and choice. This was our condition before the Lord saved us. When we were saved, the Lord crucified our flesh with the affections and lusts. (Gals 5:24) The result of this crucifixion of our old man is:

1. we would "no longer serve sin". We now have a new Master whom we serve.... The Lord Jesus Christ.
2. we are told that we have been "freed from sin" We no longer under the bonds of sin, we are now the servant of our Lord.
3. we are told that we now "live with Him" – Our life is now lived to follow His example and by doing so, please Him.
4. we are told that death no longer has "dominion over him" We now can look forward to an eternity where we will possess glorified bodies and be in His presence eternally.

We are told that because of the above we are to ... "reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God". Although, it is still possible for a Christian to sin, we are to not allow sin to dwell within us. We are dead to sin and alive to God!

12) Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

13) Neither yield ye your members [as] instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members [as] instruments of righteousness unto God.

Because the Lord has graciously intervened in our lives, we are to no longer allow sin to control our lives and dwell within our beings. We are not to submit to our fleshly lusts.... We have been freed from their bondage! We are to actively choose and submit to the Lord's desires, laws and commands for our lives and not submit ourselves to sin.

We have been purchased by Christ, we are to glorify Him in our lives. (1 Cor 6:19-20; 1 Pet 1:16-23)

14) For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. 15) What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Is Paul teaching us that we no longer are to allow sin to have dominion over our being is because the law no longer has a role to play in our lives?

If we take these verses in context, we can clearly see that this is not Paul's meaning. What then is meant by the phrase "ye are not under the law". In verse 14 we read that To not be under the law is clearly linked to the concept of sin no longer having dominion over us (being dead to sin).

For those who are dead to sin, a result of being saved by God's grace, they are:

1. no longer under the penalty of the law (Christ has paid that penalty)
2. they no longer must labor to keep the law as a necessity for salvation (Christ's work has gain their salvation past, present and future.)

It is in these senses that the believer is no longer "under" (slaves to) the law.

Please remember, sin is defined in God's Word as "a transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). For us to understand sin and to avoid sin, we must be familiar with the law of God and apply it to our lives. If we ignore His commands and simply live our lives in total disregard to His law, we will be allowing sin in our lives at every turn. We saw this clearly in part 2 of this study. So, clearly, based upon context, we are to avoid "transgressing the law" (sin) by living with a full knowledge and application of God's commands for our lives.

16) Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

17) But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

18) Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. 19) I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

20) For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

21) What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things [*is*] death.

22) But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Paul now emphasizes the need to watch our lives and to not allow sin to overtake us. Why? If we find ourselves allowing sin to dwell in our lives, habitually submitting to it, there is a good possibility we have never been saved. Remember, a part of our salvation was becoming "new creatures in Christ" (2 Cor 5:17). A part of this "newness" in Christ is a departure from the bondage of sin and the law. Willful submission to His desires is now a part of our new nature. This is the fruit we are to bear (Phil 1:9-11).

23) For the wages of sin [*is*] death; but the gift of God [*is*] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Paul, now in summary, clearly explains the radical difference between service to sin and salvation through Christ. The earned result of sin is death (both physical and spiritual). The unearned gift of salvation results in the receipt of eternal life through Christ and His work.

This is why it is so important for each one of us take sin our our lives very seriously. If sin is dwelling in our lives it is a sign we have never been saved. If this is the case, we are headed for spiritual death and separation from the Lord throughout eternity.

For every Christian sin should be abhorred and sickening. When we see it appear in our lives we should approach the throne with shame, humility and regret knowing that we have failed our Lord and it is for this very sin that He died on the cross.

Allow me to address one more perversion of grace that has existed throughout the ages. Please keep in mind that the importance of the commands and laws of God found in His Word cannot be minimized from the standpoint of the Holy Spirit's leadership in the lives of Christians...

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Here, we see that the Spirit simply teaches us and calls to our remembrance what Christ has already spoken to us in His Word. The Spirit does not work independently apart from the Word. The Spirit always establishes and works within the confines of God's Word.

1Pe 1:22-23 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

At our salvation, the Spirit is active applying God's Word to our lives and bringing us into submission to that Word. It is this same Word that is then active in our lives developing a heart of love and obedience.

1Jn 4:1-3 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. (2) Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: (3) And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

Here we are told to be consistently "trying the spirits" to see whether they are testifying God's truth or not. How do we do this? By comparing the message of these spirits with the doctrines God has revealed to us in His Word.

Likewise, how are we to "test" whether the Holy Spirit is leading us or if we are misinterpreting the urgings we are experiencing? Once again, we are to compare these urgings with the Word of God. The Spirit will NEVER lead us to go against the principles of the Word. If we are being led to go against God's laws or desires for us it CANNOT be the Holy Spirit that is leading us. It is a VERY dangerous thing to follow inner "urgings" without testing them with the Scriptures beforehand.

In the preceding verses, we can see that the Holy Spirit ONLY leads a Christian based upon the content of God's Word. The Spirit's ministry is to hold up, accentuate and apply the Word for our lives. The Holy Spirit in no way REPLACES the need for the Word (a part of which is God's laws) for our lives. To say that we no longer need His Word... we will just let the Spirit lead us, is truly a contradiction. The Spirit's ministry to us is reliant on the laws, commands and desires of God found in His Word.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

For those who have been made separate to His service by His wondrous grace....

Let us never fall into Satan's trap and take sin in our life lightly. We are to never use the gracious eternal righteousness given to us by God as a covering for allowing sin to be taken lightly and continually be indwelling us.

For those who have yet to be separated from the bondage of sin

Keep in mind, to be able to serve the Lord and follow His dictates requires God's intervention in your life. You are still under the bondage of sin and the law. You cannot make yourself pure and righteous, nor can you go good works to merit the receipt of Christ work on your behalf. As the Lord intervenes in your life, you must come before Christ humbly, understanding that you have sinned and those sins have displeased God and separated yourself from Him and willing to turn from your sins to His service.

May the Lord bless you as you seek His truth.

“The Call To Separation: The Motivation”

We have seen the divine imperative to live lives of separation from sin and to service that honors and glorifies our Lord. For those who are truly saved, the keeping of this imperative is a joyous, fulfilling experience. Why? What motivates a Christian to put down the sinful pleasures he used to enjoy and gladly pick up the light yoke of service to Christ? It is something called love. 2 John 1:6...

And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

Love is the motivating force that brings about obedience in the form of the fruit of righteousness in the life of those who are genuinely born again. Phil 1:9-11...

And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and [in] all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Let's look at the importance of love as the motivating force in living separated lives for His glory.

THE SCRIPTURES:

Psalm 40:8

Psalm 119:47-48

Matthew 22: 35-40

Phil 1:9-11

1 John 5:1-3

2 John 1:6

THE STUDY:

When we study the need for love as we live separated lives for His glory... we must consider the reciprocal relationship between love and His commands:

1. God's people, motivated by love, walk in His commands.
2. The greatest command He gives to us is the command to love God first and others second.

It is in these two principles that we come face to face with the interdependent relationship between love and the law of God. Matt 22:35-40...

Then one of them, [*which was*] a lawyer, asked [*him a question*], tempting him, and saying,

Master, which [*is*] the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second [*is*] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

(also please note Gals 5:13-14)

Please notice in these verses several very important truths:

1. The greatest commandment is to love the Lord with our entire being (desires, physical life, and intellect) (Heb 8:10-13)
2. The other great commandment is to love those around us as if they were us.
3. ALL the law and prophets "hang" on these two commands. (in other words, the commandments are supported, established and held up through the exercise of love to God and man.)

To help is to further understand the interdependence of love and the commands of God...

1. Keep in mind, based upon the previous verses in this study, we found that we are to keep His commandments using love as the chief motivating force.
2. The two most weighty commandments are to love God and others. Remember the commands of God are aimed toward our relationships with both God and man. We can see this exemplified in the Ten Commandments where commands one through four speak of our relationship with God (Exo 20:1-11), while commands five through ten address our relationship with man (Exo 20:12-17).

What a blessing it is to understand this very simple yet, profound truth. We owe love to both God and man. It is through this same love that we then treat God and man as we should. In other words, it is through our love for God and man that we NATURALLY keep the commands of God. Let me give two examples just to help clarify and illustrate this truth...

If we love God as we should.... we will not take His name in vain. Thus we will be fulfilling commandment number three "thou shalt not take the name of the Lord God in vain" (Exo 20:7)

If we love others as we should we will not take their lives maliciously. Thus we will be fulfilling commandment number six "thou shalt not kill" (Exo 20:13).

Because of our love for God and man we find ourselves NATURALLY obeying the commands of God. This is one of the reasons why, if we are loving as we should His commandments are not grievous burdens for us to bear. 1 John 5:1-3...

Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

If we love as we should His commandments are naturally fulfilled as we exercise that love. It is only when our love for God and man is deficient, or nonexistent, that we find the laws of God a heavy burden that we must bear as we try to force ourselves to keep them.

If we are genuinely saved, as an act of God's grace, we will love others. Here is how it is presented....

1. If we love God we WILL love other Christians **"every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him"**
2. We can know we love others if we love and obey God. **"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments"**
3. We know we love God if obeying His commandments are not heavy burdens that produce drudgery in our lives. **"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous"**

John is clearly explaining that our attitude toward God's laws is a clear sign of our spiritual condition before Him. If we are saved, it is placed within us a love for God and a love for others. These in turn are shown to be in existence by our attitude towards His commands. If they are grievous, then we were never given love and therefore, are not saved. If they are obeyed naturally and are joyful to keep we have been given God's love and therefore can be assured of our salvation. This principle is brought out in several other texts. John 14:20-24 & John 15:9-17...

At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no

man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another.

Also we find that when we love others and keep His commandments, these are signs that we have been given liberty over sin...

Gal 5:13-14 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. (14) For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

For those who have been made separate to His service by His wondrous grace....

Does obedience to our Lord and submission to His will give you delight and fulfillment? If so, this is a wonderful proof that you have been given a new heart and mind characteristic of one that has been saved by God's grace....

Rom 7:22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

Psa 40:8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Psa 119:47-48 And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved. My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.

For those who have yet to be separated from the bondage of sin

If you find keeping the laws of God, enslavement and bondage or if you find yourself unable to gain the victory over the sin that is in your life, look to Christ and come before Him submitting to His Lordship and realize that He is the only way to receive forgiveness and liberty from the enslavement of your sin.

Rom 6:6-11 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [him], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is

dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

May the Lord bless you as you seek His truth.

“The Call To Separation: The War Within Us”

We have seen that it is a necessity for the true followers of Christ to live their lives separated from sin to His service. We have also seen that we find everything necessary to live our lives for Him in the Holy Scriptures. It is within the pages of His Word that we can find His laws, His instructions and His desires which are needed for every aspect of Godly living.

In today’s study, let’s look at some practical aspects to living separated lives in the midst of a sinful world and under the influence of our sinful flesh.

THE SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 26:41

John 6:43-47

Romans 7:1-25

Galatians 5:16-18

1 Timothy 2:3-6

James 5:4-6

1 John 1:5-10

1John 4:14-19

THE STUDY:

Rom 7:1-25

1) Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?

2) For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to [*her*] husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of [*her*] husband.

3) So then if, while [*her*] husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

4) Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, [*even*] to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Paul begins our study by using a physical example of marriage and death to present to us a spiritual truth about our changing relationships to the law and Christ at our salvation.

1. The marriage - Paul uses the picture of marriage to help us understand our relationship to the law as an unbeliever. Before our salvation we were legally dominated by the law. This “legal bondage” meant that we are under the authority of the law and must keep it perfectly, or else face punishment for breaking its commands. We learn from many other portions of Scripture that, although as a lost person we must keep the law perfectly, in actuality this was an impossibility for us to accomplish. (Psa 14:1-3, Rom 3:9-18 etc etc)
2. The death of the spouse – Paul now uses the death of the spouse to illustrate that once we have been saved by God’s grace the law no longer dominates and rules over us. In

other words, we are no longer obligated to perfectly keep the law to escape punishment. The law no longer possesses that type of authority over us. (Please note this death does not do away with the EXISTANCE of the law, it only does away with the AUTHORITY of the law. We can see this clearly in the phrases "dominion", "loosed from the law" "free from the law" etc. etc.)

3. The remarriage – Paul now uses "another man" to represent our newly attained salvation through the gracious work of Christ. Why is salvation pictured as obtaining a new husband through marriage? When we are saved we are placed under a new authority holder... Jesus Christ. He now possess authority over us. We are now obligated to serve Him as our Lord.
4. The result of the new marriage – Because of the work of Christ on the cross we are no longer obligated to keep the law perfectly to escape its punishment. We have received the righteousness of Christ and no longer are facing the law's punishment. Therefore, our concern is not to "serve" the letter of the law to escape wrath, but we are now "servants" of Christ and our main concern to live lives that "bring forth fruit unto God".

Paul now continues to examine the idea that, before salvation we were servants of the law, but now that we are saved we are the servants of Christ...

5) For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

6) But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not [*in*] the oldness of the letter.

1. Verse 5 - Paul's condition in the past as a lost individual. When we lived our lives according to the desires of our flesh, our outward actions of sin only brought forth death. Why? Because we were under the dominion of the law which stated we must live a perfect life to avoid punishment for our sins. Physical and Spiritual death are results of sin and punishments for sin.
2. Verse 6 - Paul's condition as a saved individual, please notice the present tense "now we are". Now that we are saved, we are delivered from the law's authority over us. It is no longer necessary for us to perfectly keep the law to escape it's punishment, for Christ (through His work on the cross) has taken that punishment from us. Also our salvation now allows us to keep the law as an act of service to Christ. We now keep it ("serve") with a new spirit (motivated by love and appreciation), no longer enslaved to the law (motivated by desire to escape its punishment). Note we still keep the law, but it is now with a new attitude and motive.

7) What shall we say then? [*Is*] the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

8) But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin [*was*] dead.

9) For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

10) And the commandment, which [*was ordained*] to life, I found [*to be*] unto death.

11) For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew [*me*].

Paul now begins to list the different effects of the law before His salvation....

1. Verse 7-8 If the law's bondage was harmful and impossible to bear under, does that mean that God is displeased with the law? Is it sinful? "God forbid" is Paul's answer. God used the law in our lost condition for a very important purpose... to show us our lost condition, to show us the impossibility of saving ourselves through our good works and define sin for us. Without the law sin appears to be non-existent (dead) in one's life.
2. Verse 9-10 – When Paul did not spiritually understand the law, he did not see his sinful, lost, spiritually dead condition. The "commandment came" to Paul when Christ, through the Spirit, applied the law to Paul's heart. Paul, then, began to recognize that sin that was in his life and that he was spiritually dead.
3. Verse 11 – Paul, at that point, came understand the impossibility of Him keeping the law perfectly and escaping its judgments by perfectly keeping its demands.

12) Wherefore the law [*is*] holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

13) Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

1. Vs 12 - When we understand how the Lord used the law to show us our sin and need of salvation, we must come to the realization that the law is holy (separated by God for His use), just (in alignment with the desires of God for us) and good (pleasing to God).
2. Vs 13 - Paul was already spiritually dead before the Spirit applied the law to His life. God did not use the law to make him harm Paul or bring death upon him. The Lord used the law to show Paul the sin in his life which resulted in Paul's salvation.

14) For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

15) For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

16) If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that [*it is*] good.

17) Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

18) For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but [*how*] to perform that which is good I find not.

19) For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

20) Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Please note that Paul now switches from the past tense to present tense verbs beginning in verse 14. Beginning in verse 14 and forward we find Paul describing his condition as a saved individual....

1. Verse 14 - Paul now begins to explain the war that takes place within everyone who is genuinely made a new creature in Christ..
 - a. The law is used of God for the spiritual gain of an individual. This takes place in two ways:
 - i. first, before salvation, He uses it to show them their sinfulness and need of salvation
 - ii. secondly, remember sin is a "transgression of the law". The Lord uses His law for the saved to define sin and set a standard for Christians have a walk of life that avoids sin and glorifies Him.
 - iii. Therefore Paul's conclusion is that the law is of spiritual benefit for both lost and saved.
 - b. Paul continues by telling us that AS SAVED INDIVIDUALS we continue to struggle with our sinful flesh. Our flesh, because of its fallen condition, still naturally submits itself to sin. It is bent towards the commission of sin and will continue to do so until the day that we die. Our flesh will only be liberated from this condition at its glorification that will take place at Christ's second coming.
2. Verse 15 – Here is the result of that internal struggle... Paul finds himself committing sin due to his sinful flesh. What he desired to do, he found was tainted with sin. His actions were still touched by the sin that he hated. "I allow not" is the Grk phrase "I know not" This can be taken in one of two ways....
 - a. Either Paul says that, at times, he finds himself acting on his sinful desires without him even thinking about it. If this is the meaning, he is emphasizing how his sinful flesh naturally points toward sin.
 - b. Or else by "I know not" he is saying that as he continues to serve the Lord, he realizes that his service may have sinful attributes to it that he doesn't even recognize. If this is the case, he is emphasizing that his flesh has an active part in everything that he does in his life. Even the spiritual service is never perfect in God's sight.
3. Verse 16 – 17 - Paul say that when he finds himself transgressing the law, he doesn't say the law is a wrong and corrupted. He takes the blame on himself and recognizes the law is a perfect standard that his flesh is hindering him from reaching.
4. Verse 17-20 – Paul recognizes the sin that he continues to commit does not come from the new man that he has been given at salvation (1 John 3:9-10) but it stems from His sinful flesh that continues to exist and to be active in his being. Paul

desires to do good, but cannot fully and perfectly obey the Lord because his flesh is still active within himself.

21) I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

22) For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

23) But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

1. Verse 21 – Through his experiences with this war within himself, Paul is under the control of a very basic principle... when he serves the Lord in a way that is pleasing to Him he finds that his sinful flesh is “present”. The Grk for present means “to be laying at hand, near, hanging upon”. Paul says his flesh is always near him, hanging upon him, to hinder his walk for Christ.
2. Verse 22- The desires of Paul’s heart is to serve his Lord but...
3. Verse 23 – he finds that there is another authority, his sinful flesh, to which he can submit... it wars against his Godly desires and causes him to commit sin.

24) O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Paul, because of his sinful fallen flesh that retains influence in his being, describes himself as “wretched”.

The grk word for “wretched” is defined as “to bear under sufferings, trials or torments”

Paul is saying that he is burdened with his sinful flesh as if he has to drag it and struggle against its weight wherever he goes and whatever he does.

25) I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Why thank the Lord? The realization of his sinful flesh’s influence in his life causes Paul to remember his prior servitude to the law and sin. As a new creature, through the new man that He has been given he is no longer under that servitude. Therefore, he thanks the Lord for his salvation, his liberation from the punishment and bondage of the law and his ability to serve Christ through the keeping of His law. He is content knowing that in spite of the influence of his flesh, he can serve the Lord now, while awaiting the liberation from his fleshly body that will take place at the second coming of Christ.

Here are a few other passages that speak of this war that is taking place in the being of any genuinely saved individual...

Gal 5:16-18 [*This*] I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Matt 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [*is*] willing, but the flesh [*is*] weak.

Jas 4:5-6 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

1Pet 2:11-12 Dearly beloved, I beseech [*you*] as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by [*your*] good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

For those who have been made separate to His service by His wondrous grace....

It is vital that we understand the character and activity of our sinful flesh that we have retained following our salvation experience. Because of this, we are to be constantly on guard against our flesh's influence in all of our deeds. We are to be sensitive to the sin that we commit and come to Him in repentance, so as not to allow the actions of our sinful flesh to corrupt and lessen our communion with our Lord.

1John 1:5-10 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is

faithful and just to forgive us [*our*] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

For those who have yet to be separated from the bondage of sin

The war within that we have been discussing has no application to your life. The Word of God describes your condition as being sinful, not desiring of the things of God and unable to come to Him apart from the Lord's intervention in your life.

John 6:43-47 **Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.**

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

1John 4:14-19 **And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son [*to be*] the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.**

Read His Word, come to an understanding of the sin in your life and the resulting spiritual condition that you are in. Turn from your sin and humbly turn to Christ, trusting Him as your only hope of salvation from your sins. Seek the Lord and His rule in your life. Realize you cannot live a perfect life to escape the law's punishments; nor can you do anything to merit the application of Christ's work on your behalf.

1Tim 2:3-6 **...God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For [*there is*] one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.**

May the Lord bless you as you seek His truth.

“The Call To Separation: The Imperative”

2Cor 6:14-18

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 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. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [*thing*]; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

During the course of our series we have seen, just as the above verses reflect, the need to live lives that are separated from sin to the service of our Lord Jesus Christ. In our final lesson in this series, I would like us to answer a very simple question.... “Why is it important that a Christian live a life separated from the sin of this world?” May the Lord bless us as we finish our study on “The Call To Separation” .

THE SCRIPTURES:

Romans 7:22	Romans 12:1-2	Romans 13:11-14	Ephesians 4:20-32
1 Timothy 1:18-19	2 Timothy 4:6-8	Hebrews 2:9-18	Hebrews 12:1-4
Hebrews 12:4-14	1 Peter 1:14-16	Revelation 4:10-11	

THE STUDY:

“Why is it important that a Christian live a life separated from the sin of this world?”

Reason #1 – The Lord’s coming is closer than ever before...

Rom 13:11-14

And that, knowing the time, that now [*it is*] high time to awake out of sleep: for now [*is*] our salvation nearer than when we believed.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

**Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.
But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to [fulfil] the lusts [thereof].**

Reason #2 – We will receive eternal rewards that we can use to glorify Christ throughout eternity...

2Tim 4:6-8

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith:

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Rev 4:10-11

The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Reason #3 – To Affirm God's Will To Those Around Us...

Rom 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.

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.

Reason #4 – To Testify of God’s Holiness...

1Pet 1:13-16

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Reason #5 – To Avoid A Shipwrecked Testimony ...

1Tim 1:18-19

This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

Reasons #6 thru 10 – To Not Give Place To The Devil... To Meet The Needs Of Others.... To Minister Grace To Those Around Us... To Avoid Grieving The Spirit...To Display The Forgiveness of Christ...

Eph 4:20-32

But ye have not so learned Christ;

If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Neither give place to the devil.

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with [*his*] hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Reason #11 – To Avoid Our Heavenly Father's Chastening ...

Heb 12:4-14

Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected [*us*], and we gave [*them*] reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

For they verily for a few days chastened [*us*] after their own pleasure; but he for [*our*] profit, that [*we*] might be partakers of his holiness.

Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

Follow peace with all [*men*], and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Reason #12 – Simply Because We Want To ...

Rom 7:22

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

For those who have been made separate to His service by His wondrous grace....

Let us all seek to run the race that is set before us: to live separated lives that glorify and honor our Lord...

Heb 12:1-4

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [*us*], and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [*our*] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

For those who have yet to be separated from the bondage of sin

Look to Christ in faith as the One who died for us, so that we might be removed from the bondage of sin and separated from this world for His service....

Heb 2:9-18

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

For it became him, for whom [*are*] all things, and by whom [*are*] all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified [*are*] all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

For verily he took not on [*him the nature of*] angels; but he took on [*him*] the seed of Abraham.

Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto [*his*] brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things [*pertaining*] to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

May the Lord bless you as you seek His truth.