

Separating from evil to maintain purity

2 Peter 1:3 (NASB95)

3 His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

Familiarity with God's word protects us from the snares and pitfalls of the carnal man's system of thought

Is it moral opinion or is it God's word directing the advice or encouragement we give or receive ?

Truth, right, wrong; advice we give is it human moral judgment, or is it based in reality /the word of God.

When we say something is right or wrong; is that your natural moral opinion, or is it based in the absolute truth of God's word.

It may be true, but unless we give the source of that truth, which is the word of God; The believer being encouraged will usually not receive it as true, or do anything about it. He'll regard it as your opinion, and think your opinion is no better than mine.

And in fact even if it is true or right, Unless you know the Scripture backing that statement; then it's only an opinion!

Maybe someone is giving you advice:

You might say "that's good advice". How do you know it's good advice? Do you have knowledge of Scripture that verifies the advice to be good.

That's why we use literal interpretation and point out the areas of literal interpretation in each study. Because if it lines up grammatically, historically and contextually, then we know it's God's word, it's been verified; it is God speaking. So now it's not the opinion of the minister that's being communicated but literally God's word.

This believer will not share acceptance when they recognize it to be God's word

Hebrews 3:12-15 (NASB95)

12 Take care, brothers, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

13 but **encourage one another day after day**, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, 15 while it is said, "Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts, as when they provided life."

Galatians 3:3 (NKJV)

3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

God's dealings with the nation of Israel are analogous to the Christian walk

Separation to maintain purity

1. God separates and isolates to create a pure seed, distinct from other nations:

a. God separates **Abraham** from his country, and sends him to a strange land:

Genesis 12:1-3 (NKJV)

1 Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you."

God's blessings are always in accordance with His plan

2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great. And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

b. **Abraham** and **Sarah** attempt to help God fulfilling its promise:

Genesis 17:17-22 (NKJV)

17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

18 And Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!"

19 Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him. 20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. 21 But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year."

b. Isaac's wife **Rebekah**, not of the Canaanites:

Genesis 24:1-7 (NKJV)

1 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. 2 So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh.

3 and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the **daughters of the Canaanites**, among whom I dwell; 4 but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

5 And the servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I take your son back to the land from which you came?"

6 But Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back there.

7 The Lord God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, "To your descendants I give this land," He will send His angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.

c. Jacob's wife **Rachel**, was not of the Canaanites:

Genesis 28:1-5 (NKJV)

1 Then Isaac called **Jacob** and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: "You shall not take a wife from the **daughters of Canaan**."

The Canaanites were an evil people

2 Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother.

3 "May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, That you may be an assembly of peoples;

4 And give you the blessing of Abraham, To you and your descendants with you, That you may inherit the land in which you are a stranger, Which God gave to Abraham."

5 So Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Padan Aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

2. God separates and isolates Jacobs family in the land of Goshen, where the nation Israel is born:

a. Joseph's dream; the sun and the moon and 11 stars:

Genesis 37:9-11 (NKJV)

9 Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."

10 So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"

11 And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

b. Israel is isolated from the Egyptians in the land of Goshen:

Genesis 45:9-11 (NKJV)

9 "Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph: "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry."

10 You shall dwell in the land of **Goshen**, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have.

11 There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine."

Genesis 45:25-28 (NKJV)

25 Then they went up out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father.

26 And they told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt." And Jacob's heart stood still, because he did not believe them.

27 But when they told him all the words which Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived.

28 Then Israel said, "It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

Genesis 46:1-4 (NKJV)

1 So Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

2 Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am."

3 So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there.

4 I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."

3. Separation in the home, to maintain purity:

a. Removing the rebellious son, so that his sin doesn't spread to others:

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 (NKJV)

18 "If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them,

19 then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city.

20 And they shall say to the elders of his city, "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard."

21 Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.

4. Separation in marriage, to maintain purity:

1 Kings 11:1-8 (NKJV)

1 But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites—

2 from the nations **of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them**, nor they with you.

Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love.

3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.

4 For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David.

5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

6 Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not fully follow the Lord, as did his father David.

7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon.

8 And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

5. Separation to maintain purity:

a. The Christian's Separation from the unbeliever:

2 Corinthians 6:15-18 (NKJV)

15 O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open.

12 You are not restricted by us, **but you are restricted by your own affections**.

13 Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open.

All the thoughts revealed by the spirit to us, we've given to you

Receive God's counsel

14 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."

b. The Christian's separation from his worldly desires:

James 4:1-6 (NASB95)

1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? **It is not the source your pleasures** that wage war in your members?

2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

5 Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us?"

6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, **God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."**

Proverbs 9:9-10 (NKJV)

9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

Even those who are knowledgeable in the word need a friend to come along from time to time, to remind them of Scripture, directing them back to the straight path