

Ecclesiastical Separation

“That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”
(Eph. 5.28)

As we conclude our study on the teaching of separation, we must turn our eyes from personal separation to _____ separation. By corporate separation, we are referring to the body of believers to which an individual saint is _____. Another term for this type of separation is called ecclesiastical separation.

In this age, _____ is the watch word. The common narrative is that every group should go _____ to get along. Yet, looking across the landscape of any community, and you will notice a plethora of “Christian Churches.” What often distinguishes them apart is ultimately what they _____ and what they _____ in. It has been said, “Doctrine divides but love unifies.” One well-known pastor is cited as saying, “We don’t offer different kinds of Bible studies or teach doctrine because it gets in the way of evangelism.” This presents some powerful questions:

*** What is a church?**

- A group (2 or 3) of redeemed believers that meet together in a locale for an expressed purpose.

*** What is the purpose of a church?**

*** Who is the Judge of a church?**

- Christ is! (Rev. 1.13-18)
 - * _____ isn’t the great concern (Rev. 2.1-7)
 - * Outward _____ isn’t the great concern (Rev. 2.8-9)
 - * _____ isn’t the great concern (Rev. 3.17)

The messages to the seven churches is quite clear. If the assembly _____ with _____ and darkness or in precept or _____, its light becomes _____ until it cannot provide any light at all. This is the

issue for these churches and certainly all NT churches even of today.

The very word that is used for church (ekklesia) means “_____ out group.” The very nature of an assembly is to be different from the society in which it is located. Separation is implied in its very _____. In what areas should a local assembly seek to pursue the doctrine of separation?

* **Separation in _____** — The membership of a NT assembly should be made up _____ of professing, baptized individuals. The direction of the NT is clear: Those that heard and obeyed the gospel were saved and added unto the church. (Acts 2.41).

* **Separation in _____** — The NT assembly being comprised of _____ believers (Eph. 4.14) should seek to be instructed in the truths of the Word of God. As such, their beliefs regarding the interpretation of the Word of God should be the _____ unity that is sought. Those that would teach contrary to this established rule should be avoided (Rom. 16.17-18).

* **Separation in _____** — The NT assembly must give caution to its _____ with other churches and subsequent ministries. There are many areas of association: _____, _____, _____. The NT assembly must choose her affiliations on doctrine. She can not long remain doctrinally pure if she _____ herself with ecumenical groups that seek to _____ truth with error. With the wind of change gusting, a NT church must constantly _____ the compass of truth (II Cor. 6.14-18).

* **Separation in _____** — The NT assembly must not be confused as to its practice. The proclamation of the truth has taken a backseat to church growth. The _____-sensitive movement and the _____(reimagined) mentality have reduced the Word of God to a trivial pursuit. Biblical pursuit must be key, and the chiefest means is the foolishness of _____ (I Cor. 1.21). Activity that is sound in Biblical Truth is always safest (II Tim. 4.1-4).

Let us maintain a passionate pursuit of purity that our _____ be not removed out of its place prematurely (Rev. 2.5).