

WE ARE A DIFFERENT BREED

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

LIVING FOR JESUS MEANS SEPARATING FROM THE SINFUL AND IDOLATROUS PRACTICES OF OUR WORLD

- *“Do not be yoked together with those who do not believe. For what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness? 15 What agreement does Christ have with Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement does the temple of God have with idols?” (2 Corinthians 6:11-16a)*
- **Jesus calls us to love people without allowing the lifestyles of the people we love to pull us away from Him.**
- **We cannot love and live for Jesus while simultaneously joining with sinful and idolatrous people in their sinful idolatrous ways.**
- *“No, but I do say that what they sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons! 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot share in the Lord’s table and the table of demons. 22 Or are we provoking the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?” (1 Corinthians 10:20-22)*
- **If we are going to claim to be followers of Jesus, then it will require us to surrender every area of our life to the Lordship of Christ.**

WE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD

- *“For we are the temple of the living God, as God said: **I will dwell and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.** 17 **Therefore, come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord; do not touch any unclean thing, and I will welcome you.** 18 **And I will be a Father to you, and you will be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.**” (2 Corinthians 6:16b-18)*
- **We are fully alive and free from sin and idolatry because God has given us His “life-giving Spirit.” (See 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20)**
- **Since we are the temple of the living God, we cannot allow the temple to be contaminated with idolatry and immorality.**
- **God is not just calling you out of something, He is calling you to Himself. (vs. 17c-18)**

BECAUSE OF GOD’S LOVE FOR US, WE ARE CALLED TO A LIFE OF PURITY AND HOLINESS

- *“So then, dear friends, since we have these promises, let us cleanse ourselves from every impurity of the flesh and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.” (2 Cor. 7:1)*
- **God calls us to purity and holiness because it is beneficial to us and it glorifies Him.**
- *“So then...since we have these promises...” (vs. 7:1)*
- **There is nothing you surrender for the sake of Christ that compares with what you receive when you fully surrender to Christ.**
- **The way we honor God is to separate from sinful idolatrous practices, honor our bodies as the temple of God, and pursue holiness.**

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation:

- What five contrasts or rhetorical questions does Paul use to emphasize the incompatibility between following Christ and participating in sinful and idolatrous practices? (vss. 14-16)
- What does Paul say is true about believers because they are “the temple of the living God”? What promises does God make to His people? (vss. 16-18)
- What commands does Paul give concerning separation, and how are those commands connected to God's promise of relationship with His people? (vss. 17-18)
- How should believers respond to God's promises, and what areas of our lives does Paul say should be cleansed? vs.7:1

Understanding

- What are some ways Christians today can gradually become influenced by attitudes, values, or behaviors that conflict with following Jesus?
- What practical boundaries can help us remain loving and relational with unbelievers while still remaining faithful to Jesus?
- What kinds of relationships, commitments, or partnerships have enough influence over our direction that being spiritually aligned becomes especially important?
- What are some areas where Christians may be tempted to rationalize compromise by saying, “It’s really not that serious”?
- How should seeing yourself as God's temple affect the way you think about your body, sexuality, habits, entertainment, relationships, speech, and other personal choices?
- What might God be asking you to leave behind—not simply because He wants something from you, but because He wants something better for you and desires deeper fellowship with you?