

Called by God
Part 2
“Be Separate” or “Be His”

Acts 13 NKJV

Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away.

Testimony

Pastor Robert Henderson who pastors Radiant Church in Waco, TX shared a testimony about a season in his life when he was earnestly seeking the Lord for an anointing of the Spirit and Power.

He shares that one night in a dream he was standing outside of a cave and he sensed the presence of the Lord. Then the presence of the Lord went into the cave and so he followed. Suddenly he could see the face of Jesus and coming from him were two mantels, one was blue and the other silver. He explains that these two colors represent the Spirit and Power which was what he had been seeking from the Lord.

When this happened he wrapped these two mantels around his neck like a scarf.

This is the part that hit me: He said, the Lord continued further into the cave and Pastor Robert followed after him. Then not really knowing where the thought came from, he said to the Lord; “Lord how can I love you more?” when he did, Jesus stopped, turned and looked over his shoulder at him and said to him, “Separate Yourself”

Vs. 2

As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, **“Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”**

Separate:

- To mark off from others by boundaries, to limit, to separate.
- To appoint, set apart for some purpose.

2 Corinthians 6

14 Do not be yoked (unequally yoked) together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

“I will live with them
and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they will be my people.”

17 Therefore,
“Come out from them
and be separate,
says the Lord.
Touch no unclean thing,
and I will receive you.”

18 And,
“I will be a Father to you,
and you will be my sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty.”

There is so much truth and promise packed into this passage of scripture.

1st there is a clear instruction:

Vs. 14

Do not be yoked (unequally yoked) together with unbelievers.

This is often used in reference to Christians dating or giving advice for marriage...

But the Apostle Paul doesn't limit it in that way...

This relates to any relationship in your life...

- He isn't saying: Just be careful...
- The Apostle isn't just saying you are different from the world...
- He is saying, you belong to someone who is completely different and opposite rather from this world...
- With that, you serve a completely different master, in a completely different way...

Your devotion to God and relationship with God is on a completely different bandwidth than others who are devoted to other things, opposite things...

“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers”

Notice something here: “Do not **be** yoked together with unbelievers”

God cares about your being not just your doing...

You and I are called first to be his...

The Call of God is first about being his before he ever asks us to do anything...

Matthew 4:18-19

18 As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake because they were fishermen. 19 Jesus said, “**Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.**”

- before you or I will ever really do anything for the Lord we must first belong to Him...

Then there is explanation:

Vs. 14-16

For what do righteousness and wickedness **have in common**? Or **what fellowship** can light have with darkness? **15 What harmony** is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? **16 What agreement** is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God.

Notice these terms:

Have in common

What fellowship

What harmony

What agreement

These are terms that speak more to relationships than actions...

The Call of God is summed up in this way; where your heart goes so goes your feet...

God desires you more than what he can get from you...

Then following that, there is a promise:

Vs. 16-18

As God has said:

“I will live with them
and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they will be my people.”

17 Therefore,

“Come out from them
and be separate,
says the Lord.

Touch no unclean thing,
and I will receive you.”

18 And,
“I will be a Father to you,
and you will be my sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty.”

In our Class that studied the Book of James, the question came up about what does it mean to be separate from the world?

I believe question came from **James 4:4** “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

In other words, how does it work that we are called to be in this world but not of it?

- First off Friendship has to do with affection...
- God cares about where our affection lie...
- Therefore affection to the world could steal our affection from the Lord, and you can't love both...
- The thought came to me about my relationship with my wife...
- I am not worried about where she goes, if there are other guys at the grocery store or not...
- I'm not in the least bit concerned because I know her affection is towards me and her devotion is to me...
- Now if someone where trying to steal her affection from me then that would be a problem...

That's how the Lord is with us...

You know the verse in **John 10:10** where Jesus says
“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

Steal what?

The context of the verse is that of Jesus sharing that he is the good shepherd and he is the gate to the sheepfold and he watches over his sheep and he leads them and they know his voice.

Then he says Vs.10, the thief comes to steal, kill and destroy...

We quote this verse and think the devil is coming to steal from us...

The truth is, the devil hasn't come to steal from you...

The Devil comes to steal you...

Steal, Kill and Destroy

What's the Devil's Motive?

The Devil doesn't care about you, he only cares about hurting what God loves...

He wants to steal from the Good Shepherd because the Good Shepherd loves his sheep...

So the Lord says: Separate yourself unto me.

Acts 13:2

"Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

- Just like with Barnabus and Saul, when God calls you, He separates you unto himself...
- If we desire to have a closer walk with Jesus and love him more, we must Separate ourselves from the world and be fully devoted to Him...

Communion: