**Living Set Apart**

The Living Series Session 8

The new life of a Christian is to be defined by exclusive devotion to the LORD.

The LORD created us for Himself. He created us for His holy presence.

- ***Personal holiness is a manifestation of exclusive love for God.***

**God's call to holiness in the Old Testament**

**Exodus 20:3** "You **shall have no other gods** before *{besides}* Me."

- ***The God who created us has the divine right to demand exclusivity.***

**Exodus 23:24** "You **shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works**; but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their sacred pillars."

- ***Remove anything that compromises holiness in your life.***

**Exodus 34:12-16** "Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images (**for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God**), lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, **and they play the harlot with their gods** and make sacrifice to their gods, and one of them invites you and you eat of his sacrifice, **and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods**."

- ***God is jealous for us as a husband is jealous for his wife.***
- ***Our compromises do not only have a negative effect upon ourselves but also this around us.***

**Leviticus 11:44-45** "**For I am the LORD your God**. **You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy**. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth. For I am the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, **to be your God**. **You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy**."

- ***God invokes His covenant name, His deity, and His own holiness to give us reason to set ourselves apart to Him.***

**Leviticus 18:2-3** "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: '**I am the LORD your God**. According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, **you shall not**

**do**; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, **you shall not do**; nor shall you walk in their ordinances."

- *We are to set ourselves apart from the idol worship and godless practices of the people around us.*

**Deuteronomy 7:6** "For **you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself**, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth."

- *We are to set ourselves apart because He chose us for Himself.*

**Deuteronomy 12:29-31** "When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, **take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them**, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, '**How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise**.' **You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way**; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods."

- *God's people are not ruined by living in the world, but by the world living in them.*

**Deuteronomy 18:9-14** "When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, **you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations**. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. **You shall be blameless before the LORD your God**. For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; **but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you**."

- *Living set apart means not learning to follow the abominations of the nations; to keep ourselves blameless, and away from whatever God has not appointed for us.*

**2 Kings 17:15** "And they rejected His statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; **they followed idols, became idolaters, and went after the nations who were all around them**, concerning whom the LORD had charged them that they should not do like them."

- *People become idolaters by following idols.*

- *When Gods people start following people instead of God, they become idolaters.*

**Proverbs 4:26-27** "**Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established**. **Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil**."

- *We must be mindful of our walk, and be established, and not compromising with what God considers evil.*

**Proverbs 8:13** "**The fear of the LORD is to hate evil**; Pride and arrogance and **the evil way** And the perverse mouth I hate."

- *We do not love what is good until we hate what is evil.*

**Proverbs 16:6** "In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; **And by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil**."

- *The fact that God in His unfailing love for us, has atoned for our sin, it should inspire reverence and holiness.*

**God's call to holiness in the New Testament**

**Mark 12:30** "And **you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart**, with **all** your soul, with **all** your mind, and with **all** your strength.' **This is the first commandment**."

- *Loving God with all that we are is the way we set ourselves apart to Him.*

**1 Corinthians 2:12** "Now **we have received, not the spirit of the world**, **but the Spirit who is from God**, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God."

- *We live after the Holy Spirit and not the spirit of the world which caters the fallen sin nature of mankind.*
- *The world is whatever cools your love for Christ.*

**1 Corinthians 15:33** "Do not be deceived: "**Evil company corrupts good habits**."

- *People are known not only by the company they keep, but by the company they avoid.*

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18** "**Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.** For what **fellowship** has righteousness with lawlessness? And what **communion** has light with darkness? And what **accord** has Christ with Belial? Or what **part** has a believer with an unbeliever? 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." Therefore "**Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord**. **Do not touch what is unclean,**

**And I will receive you**." "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

**2 Corinthians 7:1** "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God**."

**2 Timothy 1:9** "**who has saved us and called us with a holy calling**, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,"

**1 Thessalonians 4:7** "For **God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness**."

**Hebrews 12:14** "**Pursue** peace with all people, and **holiness**, without which no one will see the Lord:"

- ***Holiness is an intentional pursuit that the Lord will reward.***

**1 Peter 1:15-16** "but **as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct**, because it is written, "**Be holy, for I am holy**."

- ***Holiness is not to be selective.***

**Romans 12:1-2** "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, **holy**, **acceptable to God**, which is your reasonable service. And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that **good and acceptable** and perfect will of God."

- ***We are either conforming to the image of Christ, or we are conforming to the world.***
- ***The new life is lived according to what is holy and acceptable to God.***

**James 4:4-5** "**Adulterers and adulteresses!** 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**. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "**The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously**"?"

- ***Too much friendship with the world, will eventually separate you from friendship with God.***
- ***If you are in step with the world, you will be out of step with Christ.***
- ***The Holy Spirit keeps a jealous watch over our lives.***

**1 John 2:15-17** "**Do not love the world or the things in the world**. **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him**. **For all that is in the world—the lust**

**of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world**. And **the world is passing away**, and the lust of it; **but he who does the will of God abides forever**."

- *The more we fall in love with Jesus, the less we will be attracted by the world.*
- *Worldliness is simply pursuing the selfish pleasures of this present life with little to no love for God.*
- *"The true Christian is not perfect in his walk, but he is different from the world." -Paul Washer*
- *Christianity is not worth anything if it does not change our lifestyle.*
- *Holiness is living that pleases God.*
- **Psalm 4:3** "But know that **the LORD has set apart for Himself him who is godly**; The LORD will hear when I call to Him."