

August 24

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 (NIV) 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.”

When we lived in Germany, I was in middle school. Our school was held in one of the warehouses in downtown Munich that had not been damaged during the war. We really liked our teacher, but, when he left the room on the last day of school, we got into a chalk fight. When that died down, we decided it would be funny to completely color the chalkboard using the chalk pieces. When our teacher returned, he was not happy. As we sat quietly in our chairs and looked at him, the joy of the moment faded. After a long pause, he said, “I want those who are responsible to pick up the chalk and clean the board.” No one moved. I knew I needed to get up, but I found it safer to remain with the group.

The Lord is quite clear on what He expects of us. We have all taken part in the sinful nature of the world. When we accept Jesus, the Lord commands us to come out from the unsaved and to be separate. This reminds me of that day in that classroom. There is comfort in blending in, but, to do that once we are saved, is to deny Christ and our new life. Jesus shed His blood so we could be forgiven, cleansed, and made righteous. We become the light of the world. We are to come out of the darkness, and we are to be separate from the world. This makes a “target” just as it did for Jesus. As I sat there in that classroom, I felt miserable because I knew what I was supposed to do. I finally got up, took the eraser, and ran it down the board, stating that I had done my part. When I sat down, I could tell my teacher was not pleased, and I knew why. My actions were an attempt to answer his call while remaining with the crowd. That was not the right answer. Eventually, we stood up, one-by-one and cleaned the board. It is time for us to come out from them and to be separate, not because we are better than others but because we are better than we were and because we are God’s children. We were not saved to blend in but to stand out and glorify the Lord.