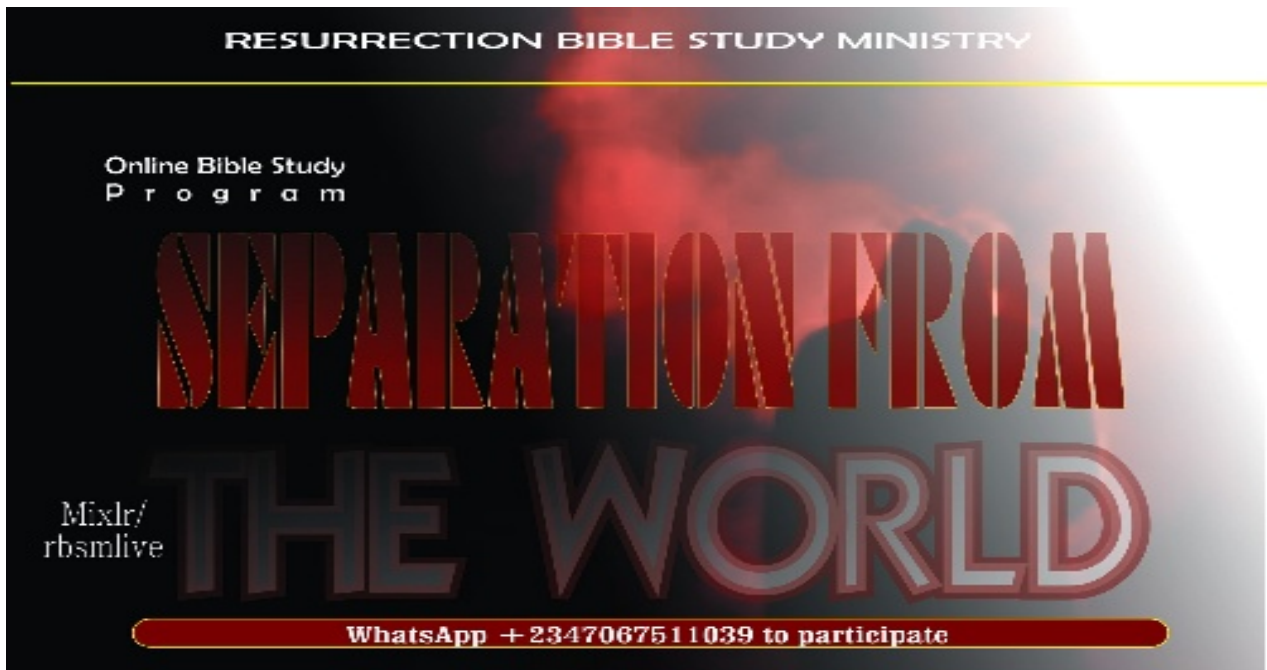




Topic:

SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD

Bible Text: 2 Corinthians 6:17

Teacher: Adewuyi S. Oluwatobi

Introduction

I welcome everyone in the name of our blessed Lord and saviour Jesus Christ, trust we all had a wonderful day and that we have been putting all what we have been learning so far into practice. Remember that it is not those who hear the words of Christ that will make heaven but those who put what was learnt into practice too. The Lord will continually strengthen us to do His will in Jesus name. Amen.

Study

I would like everyone to be attentive, as we journey into the word of God together to see another aspect which has so much to do with our preparation to the kingdom of God.

2 Corinthians 6:17 KJV **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing ; and I will receive you,** The scriptures command us to be separate telling us to come out of them, looking at this sentence, one could start imagining from whom one has to come out from. But looking at the context, one could easily notice that it's referring to the world. Therefore, what does this act of separation really connote? What does it mean to be separated, the Lord helps us to understand better in Jesus name.

WHAT IS SEPARATION?

According to Merriam Webster dictionary separation means the act of separating people or things or the state of being separated. Hence, it's important to know what separates means, it is to cause two or more people or things to stop being together, joined, or connected. To make people or things separate. For better explanation, it is to single a person or thing out of others. Let's take for instance, if there is a congregation of people in the church, the pastor preaching on the altar will not be too hard to describe nor differentiate from the congregation because he is standing separately from the congregation. Assuming he is seated in the midst of the congregation it would be hard for anyone to recognize him, therefore his ability to mount the pulpit away from the crowd makes him separate by position. This is what to be separate means

WHAT IS THE WORLD?

The "world" as used in our topic is a figurative expression just the way it is used in different portions of the scriptures such as 1 John 2:15-17

[15] Love not the WORLD, neither the things that are in the WORLD. If any man love the WORLD, the love of the Father is not in him.

[16] For all that is in the WORLD, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the WORLD. [17] And the WORLD passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. also in the book of James 4:4 KJV

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the WORLD is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the WORLD is the enemy of God. among others, these tell us that the world is a figurative expression of its practices. It's transliteration is " *kosmos*" and it means adorning world, in other words, attractive world of sin and iniquity. The world is an embodiment of worldly pleasures which consist of the lust of the eye, lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. - 1 John 1:16

WHAT IS SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD?

Since we have been able to know what separation is along with what the world is, then the bringing together of these words in a sentence would mean to stop being together, joined or connected to the practices of this present world, that is lack of conformity with the lustful pleasures and desires the world has to offer.

It means

- Coming out of worldliness
- Being set apart from ungodliness
- Standing out in Holiness

- Refusal to blend with worldly trends
- It means total consecration from the world
- Coming out of demonic practices
- Being different from unbelievers
- Exercising self-control and not yielding to the enticements of the devil.

WHY MUST CHRISTIANS SEPARATE THEMSELVES?

It is what God commands, Revelation 18:4 **And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, COME OUT of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.** The scriptures in many places warn the believers to do away with any form of attachments with the world, the desire of the Lord is to have a church (body) who is Holy and righteous without blemish. Ephesians 5:27 **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.** However, since the things this world has to offer in form of sinful pleasures are controlled by the prince of this world (devil), they are polluted and unclean before God. God's eyes are too Holy to behold sin, which is why he seeks for a Holy people and if believers would be Holy then they must yield to the call for separation. Lot was a man who was righteous living in the midst of an ungodly and unholy people, those whose practices are wicked and worldly in the sight of the Almighty God. It got to a point when the Lord decided to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah which made him call for Lot's separation out of the land to another place. Assuming lot was reluctant to leave the land, he would have been destroyed along with the rest. Christians must not be reluctant but willing to leave worldly ways of life, and not get entangled with them. **The reasons for this call is not far fetched.**

- It's for believers to be able to live a life that is well pleasing to God
- It's so that we can live Holy and righteously
- It's for us not to touch unclean things
- It's so that we would not share in the sins of others
- For us not to be an enemy of God
- For us not to be an accomplice in the sins of others
- To avert God's wrath
- To be able to walk in God's will
- So that we can love God the more
- So that we can be received by God.

Everyday of our lives, God still yearns to see those who are ready to separate themselves from the world. He is seeking to show Himself strong to those whose hearts are upright to Him, these are those who would possess kingdoms, these are they who would control the finance aspect of the economy in true holiness and righteousness just as Joseph did. The Lord wants those who are determined to come out of worldly trends, fashion, conducts, conversations etc in order to produce a people ready to meet Him at rapture.

EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WHO SEPARATED THEMSELVES FROM THE WORLD IN THE BIBLE

- **Joseph:** he separated Himself from the worldly pleasure of the lust of the flesh even when there was free sex available for him just the way it is available these days, he rather chose to flee, he created a separation, that even the bible records that he refused to be with Mrs Potiphar, that is to stay around her. Genesis 39:10 **And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, OR TO BE WITH HER.** Joseph recognized that any little mistake can bring about friendliness with worldliness so he avoided that which is avoidable as much as possible, this later led to his upliftment.

- **Samuel:** even though he was given to God as a child to work for Him in His sanctuary under Eli. He continued steadfastly even as he grew up and did not depart from the sanctuary where he served God wholeheartedly, he obeyed God's voice and refused to compromise in his daily service to God under Eli, he separated himself away from Hophni and Phinehas who were the corrupt children of Eli and have refused to walk in the way of the Lord, he did not join in their wicked ways but chose to be different, Samuel chose to be separate and when these ones were punished, he did not share in their punishments. 1 Samuel 2:34 **And this shall be a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them.**

- **The Daughters Of Philip:** the scriptures talk about the four daughters of Philip who separated themselves for God to use, Acts 21:9 **And the same man had four daughters, VIRGINS, which did prophesy.** their separation from the world of immorality paved way for God to use them and they prophesied because they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Any person who separates himself from the world is creating room for the Holy Spirit to dwell.

- **Jesus Christ:** The Lord Who is our pattern also separated Himself from the world, He lived a sinless life as He walked through the Earth in human form, He was Holy and Righteous all through, through this, He has set an example for us to follow and in this we ought to walk so as not to give in to the devil at any point. Anyone who wants to separate him/herself from the world must be ready to do away with the things of the world both internally and externally. Such as witchcraft,

- Sorcery,

- Hatred,
- Bitterness,
- Unforgiveness,
- Jewelries,
- Make up,
- Worldly haircuts and hairdos,
- Bangles,
- All forms of ring,
- All forms of hair attachment,
- Female trousers,
- Clothes with demonic logos and inscriptions among others.

HOW TO SEPARATE ONESELF FROM THE WORLD

1. Through constant prayers to God.
2. By keeping company with Godly people.
3. By seriously meditating on the word of God everyday.
4. By being the doer of the word and not the hearer or reader only
5. By fleeing things that can lead to sin and determination not to join the world in any of its ways and practices.

CONCLUSION

The call for separation is not only meant for those who operate in the five fold ministries or to the ministers of the gospel alone, it is due for every believer who desires to make heaven, it is what must be done constantly and consciously through the help of the Holy Spirit. Hence, ability to change instantly where required makes separation from the world easily achieved. This is the will of God for every believer, therefore all must be ready to be separate.

This is where I would stop for tonight, Thank you very much for your time, if you have any question, please do ask. Have a wonderful night rest.

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