

Assurance of Salvation
Part 108

SEPARATION FROM
THE WORLD:

"Points of contact" between the
righteous and the wicked.

LAST Week

We looked at the incompatibility of
the righteous and the wicked.

**LESS
COMPATIBLE
THAN
OIL
AND
WATER**



There are often similarities
on the surface.

But when you look deeper...

- Values
- Motivations
- Priorities
- Foundational issues

... you discover that there is nothing in common.

This fact left us with:

? The BIG QUESTION

Is there any "point of contact"
between believers and unbelievers?

LET'S FIND OUT!

After all, God does warn us:

Therefore come out from them
and ***be separate,***
says the Lord.

2 Cor. 6:17a (NIV)

- This passage is a COMMAND.
- It does NOT end with a statement like,
"Not really... I was just joking!"
– Instead, it is connected to a promise about
salvation! (v. 17b-18)

The first thing we must understand:

#1

We must realize that
"SEPARATION"
is not
"isolation"!



NOT THIS!

"SEPARATION"

has to do with:

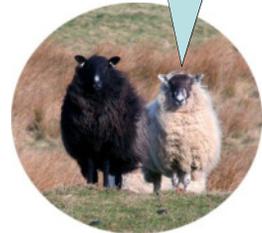
"admitting the distinction"

that exists between
saved and unsaved,

**"and not
blurring that distinction"!**

NOT THIS!

We're actually
both GRAY!!



IS there a "point of contact"
between believers and
unbelievers?

YES!!

- They were all born sinners
– just as we were.
- We are commanded to love them
– just like Jesus did.

Love them just like Jesus did!

- He was willing to associate with sinners... but he was never willing to be silent about the truth.
- He was a "friend of sinners," but an enemy of their sin...

...and he let them know it!

Go, and sin
no more!!

Many church-goers
close their eyes to this fact:

I DON'T
SEE IT!

"Loving them"
does not mean
"compromise and
silence"!

It means "LIVING THE LIGHT,"
not "suppressing the light"!

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill
cannot be hidden. .

Matthew 5:14 (NASB)

- **You DON'T stop expressing godly values!**
– The unsaved will be quite willing to express their values!



I'LL JUST GO ALONG WITH THEM, AS A "SILENT WITNESS"!

There is *no such thing* anywhere in Scripture!

[at least in a *good* sense]



I DON'T WANT TO OFFEND THEIR NON-CHRISTIAN VALUES!

So *who's* values do they see?

No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket. Instead, everyone who lights a lamp puts it on a lamp stand. Then its light shines on everyone in the house.

In the same way **let your light shine** in front of people. Then they will see the good that you do and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:15-16 (GW)



I'M WITNESSING!

Do *they* know it?

- Living according to the values of God's kingdom *includes* a willingness to speak!
 - The two are NOT separate.

And how can they hear about [Jesus] unless someone tells them?

Romans 10:14c (NLT)

God's description of a "silent witness"!

When I say to a wicked man, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to dissuade him from his evil ways in order to save his life, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood.

But if you do warn the wicked man and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his evil ways, he will die for his sin; but you will have saved yourself.

Ezekiel 3:18-19 (NIV)

A "silent witness" is a "sinning witness"!!



Maybe if I keep silent a little longer, they'll get saved!

I'm doing my duty of doing *nothing*!!

If they go to hell, at least it *won't* be because I said something!

They're silent! That gives *us* more time to express *our* views!

[Pictures by M3Thy]



I like *these* Christians! They seem to share *my* values!

(At least I *think* they are Christians... they won't say!)

[Pictures by M3Thy]

A willingness to speak – What it DOESN'T mean:

- It *doesn't* mean you'll be constantly quoting Scripture to them!
- Jesus never "constantly quoted Scripture" to people, but he testified to the truth by his:
 - 1) **ACTIONS:** He consistently lived by Scripture's values and teachings, and would not compromise.
 - 2) **TALK:** He willingly included God in his talk, and *did* quote Scripture when the opportunity was there.



Your "point of contact" with unbelievers will have limits.

- Your innermost values and motives are *opposites!*
- You are *not* to become "yoked together with them"!

Do not be **yoked** together with unbelievers.

2 Cor. 6:14a (NIV)

LIMITS – JUST LIKE JESUS HAD.

- Though he was willing to *die* for them, they were NOT the source of his closest friendships.

JESUS DESCRIBES HIS DISCIPLES:

... I have called you friends, ...

John 15:15b (NASB)

A COMMON NEW TESTAMENT STATEMENT:

Jesus went [somewhere] with his disciples...

Found in many N.T. Scripture passages.

The issue of **INFLUENCE**: Our choice of close associates will influence us!

He who walks with the wise grows wise,
but a companion of fools suffers harm.

Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

1 Cor. 15:33 (NIV)

Interact with the unsaved,
but when it comes to influences:

ASSOCIATE WITH **GODLY** INFLUENCES:

I am a friend to all who fear you [God],
to all who follow your precepts.

Psalms 119:63 (NIV)

AVOID **WICKED** INFLUENCES:

Away from me, you evildoers,
that I may keep the commands of my God!

Psalms 119:115 (NIV)

KEY ISSUE: Ask yourself,
"Who is doing the influencing?"

- And be *honest* about it: Silence is NOT "influencing them"!

The "Silent Witness"



I'm glad she's *not* trying to influence me! I *hate* Christian values!

They must be getting influenced, because I'm not doing anything!

YOUR MISSION



**Be the "light of the world"
that God calls you to be.**



- Don't *hide* the light.
– With silence.
- Don't *merge* with the darkness.
– With compromise.

Credits (1)

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