

SEPARATE & PECULIAR FROM THE WORLD

Leviticus 20:26

INTRODUCTION: (read text)

- A. God has always desired that his people be unique, separate and peculiar
- B. In every dispensation God has required severance, exclusiveness and holiness for his purposes
 - 1. In first dispensation Patriarchal age, a family religion. Father of family was to see that his children remained unique
 - 2. In second dispensation, Mosaic age, ten commandments given with other laws to sever them from the pagans
 - 3. In third and present dispensation, Christian age or last days, we have the law of Christ or the New Testament to sever us from those of the world
- C. Think with me now about being separate and peculiar from the world

DISCUSSION:

I. SEEN IN THE CALL OF ABRAHAM

- A. Severed from his country, kindred and father's house that God might make of him a great nation, a unique and peculiar people zealous of good works Gen 12:1-3
 - 2. Nation developed in Egypt and was required to be severed from Egyptians to serve Jehovah Ex 8:20
 - 3. God brought them out to be a peculiar treasure, a kingdom of priests and an holy nation Ex 19:4,5
- B. God severed His people Lev 20:8,22,24,26

II. ISRAEL A SEPARATE PEOPLE

- A. In Lev 20 he deals with several sins that Israel (and Christians) are to avoid
 - 1. Idolatry 1-5; witchcraft 6,27; disrespect for parents 9; adultery 10; incest 11-14, 19, 20
 - 2. Homosexuality 13; bestiality 15-17; eating unclean meat 25 (no meat unclean for Christians today)
- B. These common among the inhabitants of Canaan v 23
 - 1. God abhorred these sins, so he drove the Canaanites out of the land and gave it to Israel
 - 2. Conditional - based on severance and holiness v 26
- C. Jehovah said, "I have separated you" from other people, by your daily habits and social customs
- D. Became rebellious, changed God's government; they served other gods and inter-married with the heathen
 - 1. Punishment, Israel carried to Assyrian captivity during reign of Hoshea in 722 BC 2Ki 17:3-6
 - 2. Judah carried to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar during the reign of Jehoiakim in 606 BC
 - 3. Came again in reign of Jehoiachin in 597 BC and took 10,000; in 586 BC completely besieged

- 4. Israel learned the tragic lesson of disobedience

III. NOW CHRISTIANS TO BE SEPARATE

- A. Christians (God's Israel today Rom 9:4-6) are to be severed, unique and peculiar to those about us
 - 1. The word "ye" is very emphatic in 1Pet 2:5,9
 - 2. We are a "chosen generation" (ASV "an elect race"), a royal priesthood, and holy nation, a peculiar people (ASV "a people for God's own possession").
- B. Christians set apart and sanctified by Word Jhn 17:17
- C. This uniqueness now seen in:
 - 1. NAME
 - a. Christians Acts 11:26; 1Pet 4:16; Isa 62:2
 - b. Salvation is in the name of Christ Acts 4:12
 - 2. CREED or rule of faith and practice
 - a. We do not accept any human creeds Matt 15:9
 - b. Bible our only guide 2Tim 3:16,17; 2Pet 1:3; 1Pet 4:11; Jude 3
 - 3. ATTITUDE and WAY OF LIFE in that we try to maintain a separateness from the world 1Pet 2:11,12 2Cor 6:17,18
 - 4. ORGANIZATION: Phil 1:1; Acts 14:23; 6:2,3
 - 5. WORSHIP Jhn 4:24
 - a. Simple N. T. worship practiced: teaching, praying singing, giving and Lord's supper
 - b. Consider how severed and unique we are to refuse more or less than this. Reason found in 2Jhn 9
 - 6. WORK Eph 4:12 – Strengthen Saints (perfecting the saints); help needy saints (the work of the ministry); Teach the lost (edifying body of Christ)
 - 7. TEACHING (i.e.) baptism for remission of sins Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom 6:3,4; Gal 3:26,27; 1Pet 3:21 Just one church Eph 4:4; Col 1:18; Matt 16:18; etc
 - 8. UNITY Jhn 17:21; Eph 4:4-6; 1Cor 1:10-13

CONCLUSION:

- A. After all of this teaching we ask the question: "Have you been uniquely severed from the world?"
- B. Remember, friendship with the world is enmity with God. Jas 4:4
- C. wages of sin is death Rom 6:23