

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of September 19, 2021 -

Sunday Morning Service -----	33
Sunday Evening Service -----	22
Wed. Evening Service, 09/22/21 -----	16

AND THE PEOPLE "TUNED IN"...

- Week of September 19, 2021 -

- Number of people who connected with our services on Facebook -
Sunday Morning Service:

41 Views	44 Engagements	47 People Reached
Sunday Evening Service:		
45 Views	30 Engagements	52 People Reached
Wednesday Evening Service:		
30 Views	39 Engagements	37 People Reached

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of September 19, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 647.27
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/19/21:	\$ 647.27

- Week of September 12, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 860.94
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/12/21:	\$ 860.94

- Week of September 5, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 2,084.25
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/05/21:	\$ 2,084.25

- Week of August 29, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 841.37
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/29/21:	\$ 841.37

- Week of August 22, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 613.46
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/22/21:	\$ 613.46

- Week of August 15, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 877.09
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/15/21:	\$ 877.09

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00



CHURCH INSURANCE FUND

Monthly Premium, Due 10/05/21-----	\$ 537.92
Amount Received For Oct. -----	\$ 0.00

AMOUNT STILL NEEDED FOR OCT., 2021: -- \$ 537.92

Thank You For Your Faithful Help With This Need!

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. *Admit that you are a sinner.*
2. *Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.*
3. *Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.*
4. *You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).*
5. *By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, Who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.*



THANK YOU For Your Continued Faithfulness In Giving!

During the early part this pandemic, we were unable to meet in the church-house. But - that did not mean that the expenses of having a church-house were suspended. We still had bills to pay - electricity, gas, water, trash pickup, phone, internet, facility insurance, copier lease, office supplies, etc., and, praise the Lord, His people kept praying, watching online, & supporting their church with their giving.

Sadly, some people only give when they are in attendance at church - sort of like paying for "services rendered" - but the truth is that they are robbing **THEMSELVES** of God's blessings when they withhold their tithes and offerings and only give when they are here (see Malachi 3:10). Thankfully, most of our people have remained faithful, in so many ways, during this crisis, including financially.

WE HAVE 3 WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

1. **By mail** - 23 East Wells Blvd., Sapulpa, OK 74066
2. **Drop it off** - call the Church Office to arrange it. 224-1924
3. **Online** - Go to the link below and give electronically:

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=433047>

**WE ARE GLAD WE CAN NOW GATHER TOGETHER TO PRAISE GOD & STUDY HIS WORD TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH-HOUSE!
 YOUR FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS GIFTS WILL HELP US KEEP UP WITH THE BILLS AND CONTINUE OUR RENEWED OUTREACH EFFORTS!**

Church Directory

Todd W. White -----	Pastor
Lois Mae Floyd -----	Pianist/ Organist
Mickie Shatwell -----	Evening Pianist
Derek Quinnelly -----	Greeter
Larry Byars -----	S.S. Teacher
Larry & Mary Byars, Chris Vance, Derek Quinnelly -----	Outreach
White Family -----	Custodians
Shirley, LeAnna, & Brenda White -----	Flowers
Seth White -----	Sound/Video

**SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY
 REMINDER**

Volume XXVII

September 26, 2021

Number 37



David Sorenson, Pastor Emeritus
 Northstar Baptist Church
 Duluth, Minnesota

5 THOUGHTS ABOUT BIBLICAL SEPARATION

Understanding and Applying the Principle of Separation
 by Dr. David Sorenson

The principle or practice of separation has never been popular. It was not popular in ancient Israel, and it certainly is not popular for many Christians today, yet it is a crucial factor in living for God. Moreover, separation is critical in how our children turn out after us. There are several thoughts regarding separation that every Christian should consider.

I. The Foundational Principle

The Bible says in I Peter 1:15-16, **"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."** Peter was quoting

from Leviticus 11:45-46. The Hebrew word for holy essentially meant to be set apart or separated from that which is impure. Therefore, the concept of separation is inherent in the greater principle of holiness. We have been called to be holy in our lives even as our heavenly Father is holy. That requires a separated life.

II. THE SCRIPTURAL PRECEPTS

The concept of separation is found throughout God's Word. It is the practical outworking of being holy. Consider these four passages of Scripture:

Psalms 1:1 says, **"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."** The magnificent book of Psalms begins with three negatives: walking not in the counsel of the ungodly, standing not in the way of sinners, and sitting not in the seat of the scornful. In essence, God has promised blessing for those who get out of the world. This can be simply summarized in the word separation.

Romans 12:2 also says, **"And be not conformed to this world."** The thought is to not allow the world to shape our thoughts, values, philosophies, morals, entertainment, or lifestyle. Separation from the world is clearly in view. Moreover, it is a New Testament mandate. This directive is in the imperative mode. If there is one area of life which Christians are often in violation of New Testament commands, it is in allowing themselves to be conformed to this world.

Second Corinthians 6:17 says, **"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."** Once again, here is a New Testament imperative - a command, orders from headquarters. The word them in the immediate context refers to unbelievers. Unbelievers are the essence of the world system. Notice further that it is the Lord Himself who so ordered this. We are directly commanded by our Lord Himself to be separate from the world and all its impurity.

First John 2:15-16 says, **"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. 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."** Once again we find a clear imperative to distance ourselves from the world. Where Christian people have problems not so much in loving the world itself as they do in loving the things of the world. Those things often are the entertainments of the world, the music of the world, and the "cool" factor of the world.

The principle and imperative of separation are thus clearly and forcefully set forth in Scripture. Separation from the world, therefore, becomes an issue of obedience to Christ. God has clearly ordered us to separate from the world. Our duty is to obey that commandment.

(continued inside)

III. Israel's Precedent

From the perspective of hindsight, the Old Testament is one long history of Israel ignoring God's command to separate from the culture and influence of the world of that day. In Exodus 33:16, Moses said to God, ***“For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.”*** From day one, Israel was to be a people who were separated from their ungodly neighbors.

Sadly, Israel ignored God's mandate to separate. For centuries they rubbed shoulders with the Moabites, Amorites, Hittites, assorted Canaanites, Ammonites, Zidonians, and other people groups of the world in that era.

We know that God ultimately dispersed Israel and Judah out of their land for idolatry. But where did they pick up the idolatry of Baal or Ashtoreth worship, not to mention the abomination of Molech? They picked it up because of their lack of separation from their idolatrous neighbors. The history of Israel across the Old Testament era is that of their compromise of separation and the idolatry which followed. God then pled, warned, and threatened judgment for their sin. But it all started when Israel compromised the principle and command to separate from the world of their day. There is a profound example left for us in their precedent.

IV. Day-to-Day Practice

My father was a pastor for approximately fifty years. Over the years, I heard him use the illustration of a stagecoach company in the American West advertising for drivers.

Men came from everywhere to apply for the job. The foreman asked the first man, “How close to the edge of the cliff can you drive the stagecoach as you go around the mountain?”

The applicant replied, “I believe I can drive the stagecoach within three feet of the edge of the cliff and still be in control of the horses.” The foreman said he would consider his application.

The next man replied, “I can drive within eighteen inches of the cliff without losing control.”

The third man replied, “I would drive as far from the edge of the cliff as I could.”

He got the job.

The application is obvious. We ought to keep as far from the world as we can in our everyday life. Separation is very practical.

The world's allure is enticing. Romans 12:2 directs us not to be “conformed to this world.” As a pastor for forty-eight years, I have watched numerous parents have one foot in the world and the other foot in the church. They allowed the entertainments, attractions, and dress of the world to influence their family. Sadly, in most cases, their children wound up actively pursuing the world by the time they were young adults. In some cases, the

adolescent or young-adult children from these families became involved in deep moral sin and some even in trouble with the law.

On the other hand, I have observed Christian families who were very consistent in seeking to be separated from the world and keeping it as far as possible from their children. Their children tended to grow up to serve the Lord and were godly examples. There are practical considerations for living a separated life.

The world's music is alluring. Music is spiritual in nature; it is the universal language of the human spirit. The music of the world “syncs” with our old nature. Nothing will keep a born-again Christian in the flesh more than listening to the world's music. And as a Christian walks in the flesh, the gateway for any kind of sin is open. But it feeds our sin nature—the flesh. It does not really matter if we happen to like music in the world. What does matter is doing what is right rather than doing what we want. That is the essence of Christian character. ***“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Eph. 5:19).***

V. The Way Of Sinners

Carnal Christians like to look the way people in the world do. Years ago when it was the style for men to wear long hair, many Christian young men let their hair grow long, ignoring the instruction of I Corinthians 11:14. They wanted to look the way popular characters in the world looked.

Some Christians condone social drinking; the neo-reformed movement even encourages it. I can think of nothing which is more quintessential of the world than drinking alcoholic beverages. ***“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (Proverbs 20:1). “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18).***

I began my college career in a secular university. One day in a college-level chemistry class, the professor was discussing various types of alcohol, strictly on their chemical properties. He discussed the chemical property of methyl alcohol versus ethyl alcohol. Ethyl alcohol is the type found in beverage alcohol, but methyl alcohol (or wood alcohol) is a deadly poison. Should one drink methyl alcohol, he will be dead or blind by morning. A student raised his hand and asked the professor why methyl alcohol was a poison and ethyl alcohol was not. The professor replied, “They are both poisons. One just works faster than the other.”

More crime, accidents, immorality, and sin in general take place when someone is “under the influence.” ***“Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine” (Proverbs 23:29–30a).*** But apart from this, there is an even more basic principle of separation from the world. With whom do you want to identify?

Perhaps the most subtle influence upon Christians is the way

we think. Many Christians know better than to drink alcohol or commit adultery, but few consider their mind as a portal for worldliness. What we allow to enter our minds will determine the decisions we make.

Are we more like the world or less like it? Separation has never been popular. The injunction of I Peter 1:16 still remains: ***“Be ye holy; for I am holy.”*** A major avenue toward that end is separation from the world and from its influences. ■

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

□ **JESSE DUPLANTIS SAYS GIVE TO HIM TO SPEED UP JESUS' RETURN** - Jesse Duplantis, who says the prosperity gospel only works when you give to him, now says giving to him will speed up the return of Christ.

As Christians and ministers of God's Word and the gospel, we are called to refute this garbage and defend the faith. Paul, in his letter to Timothy, says that these deceivers' mouths must be shut:

“For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach” (Titus 1:10-11).

□ **DEATH OF DAVID YONGGI CHO** - David Yonggi Cho, pastor emeritus of the Yoido Full Gospel Church of Seoul, died on September 14 at age 85. Cho, who was affiliated with the Assemblies of God, had a vast influence as the pastor of the church formerly billed as the world's largest. He claimed that he received the call to preach directly from Jesus, who supposedly appeared to him dressed like a fireman (“Paul Yonggi Cho,” Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements). He preached prosperity as part of a “five-fold gospel” - the gospel of regeneration, the gospel of the fullness of the Holy Spirit, the gospel of divine healing, the gospel of blessing, and the gospel of the advent.

Cho invented the heretical “Law of Incubation.” In his book *The Fourth Dimension* he described the steps of this “law” - first, make a clear-cut goal; second, create a precise mental picture of that goal; third, incubate it into reality by meditating on it; finally, speak it into existence. Cho admitted that he borrowed some of his teaching from Buddhist sects. In 2011, Cho was accused by 29 of the church's elders of embezzling US \$20 million. In February 2014, Cho was sentenced to three years in prison (suspended due to his age) for breach of trust and corruption and was ordered to pay a penalty of US \$4.7 million (The Gospel Herald, Feb. 21, 2014).

Dr. Peter Masters, senior pastor of the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London, England, warns: “What has built the largest church in the world? The answer is, an idolatrous mixture of biblical teaching and pagan mind-techniques. God is deprived of His sovereignty in the believer's affairs, and the authority of Scripture is replaced by the authority of supposedly direct

messages from God and the product of the imagination. This is the kind of church which has moved hordes of impressionable Christian teachers the world over to jump on to the healing-propheying bandwagon. We need to take very great care in these days” (The Healing Epidemic, “Occult Healing Builds World's Largest Church,” first edition, 1988).

□ **LUTHERAN DENOMINATION ORDAINS FIRST “TRANSGENDER” BISHOP** - The following is excerpted from “ELCA becomes first,” The Christian Post, Sept. 14, 2021:

“The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has installed Rev. Megan Rohrer as the first openly transgender bishop to serve in the liberal mainline Protestant denomination's history. For the next six years, Rev. Rohrer, 41, who identifies as both a male and female and uses the pronouns ‘they’ and ‘them,’ will head the California-based ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod. In the role, Rohrer will oversee nearly 200 congregations in Northern California and northern Nevada. ... ‘My installation will celebrate all that is possible when we trust God to shepherd us forward,’ Rohrer said, according to The Associated Press. In the role, Rohrer promised to ‘love others and love what others love.’”

□ **BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL CALLS FOR SAME-SEX “MARRIAGE”** - The following is excerpted from “Bishop of Liverpool,” Christian News, UK, June 29, 2021:

“Paul Bayes, the Bishop of Liverpool, has called for a gender-neutral marriage canon to be brought into law. Bishop Paul, 67, said the Church of England should recognise marriage between people of the same sex and allow such ceremonies to take place in church. He made the comments during the keynote speech on Saturday for the network Mosaic Anglicans, a church coalition focused on a range of issues, including race and sexuality. ... ‘I want to see an end to LGBTQ+ people hiding who they are for fear of being exposed to conversion therapy or to being forbidden to minister in churches. I want to see an end to the inquisition of ordinands about their private lives. I want to see all this before I die,’ he said. He added that same-sex love and the blessing of its expression had become his agenda as bishop.”



The Neglected Remedy