

A SEPARATE PEOPLE

Int.

1. Aim: To explain why we are to be a separate people.
2. II Cor. 6:17 "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you,"
3. God has always required that His people be a separate people. He has demanded it.
4. In every dispensation He has required --- SEPARATION -- exclusiveness or holiness
 - a. PATRIARCHAL
 - i. Family religion
 - ii. Each family under the father or priest was to remain righteous
 - b. MOSAICAL - Jewish age
 - i. National religion
 - ii. The nation of Israel was to maintain separation from all other nations on earth
 - c. CHRISTIAN
 - i. International religion
 - ii. Here God demands that we be a separate people or church.

Discussion

I. A SEPARATE FAMILY

- A. First idea of separation began with Noah
 1. Gen. 6
 2. Flood separated him and his family from all others on earth.

- B. The idea of separation is again noticed at the call of Abraham
1. Gen. 12:1-3
 2. Stern requirement... "get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house."
 3. Separation was first condition given to Abraham. He had to give up:
 - a. Home
 - b. Loved ones
 - c. Friends
 - d. Way of Life
 - e. Customs
 4. He was willing to turn his back on all of these to serve God!
 5. He didn't know where he was going, but he knew who he was going with!

II. A SEPARATE NATION

- A. God called the Israelites out of Egypt.
1. Ex. 8:20 "Let my people go that they may serve me."
 2. Separation from Egypt was essential for their religion.
 3. It was in direct contrast to that of the Egyptians.
- B. They became a separate nation at Sinai
1. Ex. 19:4-5
 2. I Kings 8:53 "For thou didst separate them from among all the people of the earth, [to be] thine inheritance, as thou spakest by the hand of Moses thy servant, when thou broughtest our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord GOD. "

- C. That Separation and Holiness was to be maintained
 - 1. I Kings 9:6-9
 - 2. They were rebellious
 - a. Changed the government and served other gods
 - b. Israel went into Assyrian captivity in 722 BC
 - c. Judah went into Babylonian captivity. Nebuchadnezzar came 3 times - 606, 597, and in 586 he destroyed Jerusalem.
 - 3. While Israel was in exile in Assyria the Assyrians imported 5 different races into the land to intermarry with the 10 tribes. This mixed race became the Samaritans.
- D. Judah was allowed to re-inhabit the land after they reformed
 - 1. They returned under Zerubbabel (536), Ezra (458) and Nehemiah (445)
 - 2. When they refused to be a separate nation God allowed them to be taken captive.
 - 3. It was only when they distinguished themselves as a separate people and nation that God allowed them to return and remain in Jerusalem.

III. A SEPARATE CHURCH

- A. What is the Church?
 - 1. The called out of God - I Cor. 1:2 Col. 1:13,14 I Pet. 2:9
 - 2. A royal priesthood - I Pet. 2:5
 - 3. A holy nation - 2 Tim. 1:9
 - 4. A peculiar people - Tit. 2:14

B. God demands that his people be a separate people

1. In speech

- a. I Pet. 4:11
- b. Tit. 2:8 "Sound speech, that cannot be condemned;...." Wholesome
- c. Speak where the Bible speaks
- d. "Language of Ashdod" - Neh. 13:23-24
 - (1) Reverend
 - (2) Pastor
 - (3) "Join the church" "My Church"

2. In doctrine

- a. 2 Tim. 1:13 = "sound words" 2 Tim. 4:2-4 Tit. 2:1 2 Jn. 9-11
- b. Israel was considered peculiar as long as she kept the commandments of God
- c. The church will be considered peculiar today by the denominations if she contends earnestly for the faith - Jude 3

3. In worship

- a. Mt. 15:8-9 Col. 2:20-22
- b. There is a tendency today toward modern idolatry just as there was in the days of Israel.
- c. Considered peculiar: no instrument, Lord's Supper every first day, not as entertainment
- d. 1 Cor 14:40 "Let all things be done decently and in order."

4. In life

- a. Rm. 12:1-2 Jas. 4:4 I Jn. 2:15
- b. Christians live in the world ... not fashion lives according to the world.

- c. If no difference in life of Christian and life of the person of the world, how is the Christian ever going to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth?
 - d. In Christ, a Christian is a new creature. He is separate. 2 Cor. 5:17
- C. Some people have just enough religion to make themselves miserable
- 1. They have too much religion to go all the way into the world, but not enough to be wholly for the Lord.
 - 2. This produces a dilemma. They try to hold to Christ with one hand and to the world with the other. They are most miserable people.
 - 3. The sooner they let go of the world. Take hold of Christ with both hands, the happier they will be and the greater service they will be.

Conclusion

- 1. There is no half way in religion
 - a. We are wholly for the Lord or wholly for the devil
 - b. Matt. 6:24 "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."
- 2. We may not be separate in this life as God demands, but there will come a time when the final separation will be made by Jehovah, God, himself.
 - a. He will separate the wheat from the chaff, the sheep from the goats.
 - b. Mt. 25:31-33 41, 46
- 3. God says "Wherefore come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord." 2 Cor.6:17

4. We must let our lights shine forth that we may be the light of the world and the salt of the earth.
5. In doing this can we be a separate people as God would have us.

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - June 10, 2007 - Sunday Evening
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