

Set Apart & Special From The World

Leviticus 20:26ff

Leviticus 20:26-27 - 'Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine. 27 'Now a man or a woman who is a medium or a spiritist shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones, their bloodguiltiness is upon them.'

Introduction:

- A. God has always desired that his people be unique, separate and special
- B. In every dispensation God has required severance, exclusiveness and holiness for his purposes. In the Patriarchal age, it was a family religion where the father was to see that his children remained unique. In the Mosaic age, the Ten Commandments were given with other laws to sever them from the pagans. Now, it is the law of Christ which is to sever us from those of the world.

I. Seen In The Call Of Abraham

- A. Idea of severance seen in call of Abraham - Gen 12:1-3

Genesis 12:1-3 - Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

1. Severed (separated; set apart) from his country, kindred and father's house that God might make of him a great nation, a unique and special people zealous of good works
2. Nation developed in Egypt and was required to be severed from the Egyptians to serve God - Exo 8:20

Exodus 8:20 - Now the LORD said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh, as he comes out to the water, and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me."

3. God took them out to be a special treasure, a kingdom of priests and an holy nation - Exo 19:4-5

Exodus 19:4-5 - 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;

- B. Note what God says - Lev 20:8, 22, 24, 26

Leviticus 20:8 - 'You shall keep My statutes and practice them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you.

Leviticus 20:22 - 'You are therefore to keep all My statutes and all My ordinances and do them, so that the land to which I am bringing you to live will not spew you out.

Leviticus 20:24 - 'Hence I have said to you, "You are to possess their land, and I Myself will give it to you to possess it, a land flowing with milk and honey." I am the LORD your God, who has separated you from the peoples.

Leviticus 20:26 - 'Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine.

II. *Israel A Set Apart People*

- A. In Lev 20 he deals with several sins that Israel as well as Christians are to avoid
 - 1. Idolatry - 1-5
 - 2. Witchcraft - 6, 27
 - 3. Disrespect for parents - 9
 - 4. Adultery - 10
 - 5. Incest - 11-14, 19-20
 - 6. Homosexuality - 13
 - 7. Bestiality - 15-17
 - 8. Eating unclean meat - 25
 - B. These common among the inhabitants of Canaan - 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 - 26
 - C. God said, "I have set you apart" 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 - 2 Ki 17:3-6
- 2 Kings 17:3-6** - Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against him, and Hoshea became his servant and paid him tribute. But the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea, who had sent messengers to So king of Egypt and had offered no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year; so the king of Assyria shut him up and bound him in prison. Then the king of Assyria invaded the whole land and went up to Samaria and besieged it three years. In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and carried Israel away into exile to Assyria, and settled them in Halah and Habor, on the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.
- 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 Set Apart*

- A. Today, Christians (God's Israel today Rom 9:4-6) in like fashion are to be severed, unique and peculiar to those about us

Romans 9:4-6 - who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen. But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel;

- 1. The word "you" is very emphatic in 1 Pet 2:5, 9

1 Peter 2:5 - you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9 - But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

2. We are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession

B. Christians set apart and sanctified by the Word - Jn 17:17

John 17:17 - "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

C. This uniqueness now seen in:

1. Our name

a. Christians - Acts 11:26; 1 Pet 4:16; Isa 62:2

Acts 11:26 - and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

1 Peter 4:16 - but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

Isaiah 62:2 - The nations will see your righteousness, And all kings your glory; And you will be called by a new name Which the mouth of the LORD will designate.

b. Salvation is in the name of Christ - Acts 4:12

Acts 4:12 - "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

2. Our creed or rule of faith and practice

a. We do not accept any human creeds - Matt 15:9

Matthew 5:19 - "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

b. Bible our only guide - 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:3; 1 Pet 4:11; Jude 3

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:3 - seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

1 Peter 4:11 - Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Jude 3 - Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

3. Our attitude and way of life in that we try to maintain separateness from the world - 1 Pet 2:11-12; 2 Cor 6:17-18

1 Peter 2:11-12 - Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in

which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 - "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

4. Our organization - Phil 1:1; Acts 14:23; 6:2-3

Philippians 1:1 - Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:

Acts 14:23 - When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Acts 6:2-3 - So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.

5. Our worship

- 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.
- c. Reason found in 2 Jn 9

2 John 9 - Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

6. Our teaching (i.e.)

- a. Baptism for remission of sins - Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom 6:3-4; Gal 3:26-27; 1 Pet 3:21
- b. Just one church Eph 4:4; Col 1:18; Matt 16:18; etc

7. Our unity - Jn 17:21; Eph 4:4-6; 1 Cor 1:10-13

John 17:21 - that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Ephesians 4:4-6 - There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

1 Corinthians 1:10-13 - Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you. Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ." Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

Conclusion:

- A. After all 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) and the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23).