

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Romans 5:1

Store In My Heart
1Corinthians 14:33

For God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

Consider the last phrase of this passage. What Paul tells the brethren in Corinth with this short phrase is important to us even today. The God of peace is associated with all churches of the saints. This means that they all follow the instruction of one God and should therefore be doing the same things. Peace can only be found with those in unity with God. Those who do not seek peace through unity with God are not among the churches of the saints.

Confusion abounds when each church practices different things yet claim to follow the same God. The religious of our world today are in much confusion because they want to add to or subtract from what God has revealed. God does not associate with confusion. What about your practices? Do you follow God's teaching?



Separated Unto The Gospel

Jim Sasser

"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures..."
(Romans 1:1-2)

In becoming an apostle and a servant of Jesus Christ, it was necessary that Paul become "separated" He was separated unto the gospel of God. He was separated from that which his parents had been holding. Paul's father was a Pharisee and Paul was a Pharisee. In becoming a follower of Jesus Christ, he would be obligated to give up his former religion. Many individuals, when asked why they are what they are religiously, answer, "Because my parents were." This is an answer but not a sufficient reason. It should be clear that being what the parents were is no guarantee that one is right. Many are unwilling to accept the truth, simply because the parents were without that truth. Not so Paul! He was concerned with the truth and the truth only--even if the accepting of that truth meant departure from the way of his parents. In **Matthew 10:37-38**, the Lord said, *"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."*

It was necessary for Paul to give up that to which he, himself, had clung so tenaciously. Paul was so zealous for the Law that he sought to destroy the church of the Lord. He couldn't bear the thought of anything that might be contrary to his religion. He was honest, sincere, and conscientious--even in persecuting Christians. But he was dreadfully wrong! When, on the road to Damascus, the Lord said unto him, *"I am Jesus of Nazareth who thou persecutest,"* it meant that his thinking was all wrong, that his teaching was wrong, and that his conduct was wrong. Paul willingly gave up that to which he had clung so tenaciously and for so long a time.

It was necessary for Paul to separate himself from the Mosaic Law. Being a Jew, Paul was acquainted with the law, was reared by

the law, and loved the law. In **Philippians 3:6**, he says, *"As touching the righteousness which is in the law, found blameless."* However, he came to understand that the law, from its very inception, was intended to be a temporary thing, that it had served its purpose, and was nailed to the cross when the Lord was crucified. In this connection Paul says, *"Howbeit what things were gain for me, these have I counted loss for Christ."* **Philippians 3:7**.

Paul had to be separated from the world. Christians must be separated from this world. This is shown by consideration of the meaning of the word "church". Its significance is, "the called out," the "separated from." In **John 18:36**, the Lord said, *"My kingdom is not of this world..."* In **Romans 12:2**, we have, *"And be not fashioned according to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds..."* **Ephesians 5:25-27**, emphasizes the fact that the church must be kept pure, spotless, clean and whole. It must be holy and without blemish.

Paul was separated unto the gospel. Separation unto the gospel would necessarily involve obedience to the gospel. Obedience to the gospel is emphasized in **2Thessalonians 1:6-8**; **Romans 1:5**; **Mark 16:16**; **Hebrews 5:8-9**. Separation unto the gospel would necessarily involve willingness to teach the gospel. Christianity is a "taught" religion. No man can become a Christian without being taught, **John 6:44-45**; **Matthew 28:19**. Every Christian is commanded to be a teacher of the gospel. **2Timothy 2:2**; **Hebrews 5:12**; **1Peter 3:5**. The members of the Jerusalem church, when scattered, *"went everywhere preaching the word."* **Acts 8:4**. Separation unto the gospel would involve willingness to contend for the gospel. A Christian will not compromise the sacred teaching. He must *"contend earnestly for the faith."* **Jude 3**. It doesn't matter whether one thinks that it might hurt someone's feelings and cause them to quit attending the church or not, one cannot afford to refuse to stand for and teach all the truth. Separation unto the gospel would involve willingness to be governed by it. Christianity involves godly living. Doctrine is of value only to the extent that it is allowed to influence one's conduct. The church must be pure in doctrine, and pure in living. Christians must walk in the steps of Jesus, **1Peter 2:21**; have the mind of Christ, **Philippians 2:5-7**; have the mind of the Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, **Romans 8:9**.

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

Church of Christ

1512 Tanner Street

Malvern, AR 72104

(501) 332-8806

preacher@tannerst.com

tannerst.com

The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Shannon Soliday is doing well following his heart cath last Friday. He has a doctor appointment upcoming to discuss treatment.

JoBeth Henderson has her third immunotherapy treatment October 27.

John LaValla has some allergy tests upcoming.

Leta Rivera should be moved to Hot Springs Country Club Village Retirement Community.

Tommy Robinson's graveside service will be October 23. Keep **Bill Venable** and the family in your prayers.

Jonathan & Amy Simpson are in New England on a 25th anniversary trip

Sunday @ 5 - **Jeremiah 7** Wednesday @ 7 - **Luke 4**