

**Return to Separation**  
Stark Rd. Gospel Hall  
Summer Series 9/10/2008  
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(2 Cor 6:14-18) “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

See also: Neh 1:1-4, 2:9-20, 3:1-3, 3:28-30, 4:1-9, 7:1-3, 8:1-6, 8:14-17, 13:1-12, 13:15-30

### **1. Separation Defined.**

- a) Guarding what is valuable (Holy things)
  - b) Protecting that which is vulnerable (God’s people)
  - c) Prizing what is of inestimable value (Fellowship with God and the honor of His name)
- Old Testament call to Israel to be a people separated unto the Lord. God’s people were called out from the nations to be a unique people called by His name. (Deut 29:13) “That he may establish thee to day for a people unto himself, and *that* he may be unto thee a God, as he hath said unto thee, and as he hath sworn unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”
  - New Testament Equivalent: (Ac 15:14) “Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.” (1 Pet 2:9) “But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar (*unique*) people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:”

### **2. Symbolism in Nehemiah: Walls and Gates (with doors bars and locks).**

Walls – Fixed structural protection. The design of the Family/Assembly  
Gates – Decisional protection. The leadership of the Family/ Assembly

### **3. Separation Lost-the Devastating Result**

(Neh 1:3) “And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province *are* in great affliction and reproach (*disgrace*): the wall of Jerusalem also *is* broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.”

(Neh 2:17) “Ye see the distress that we *are* in, how Jerusalem *lieth* waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire”

Let us all take stock of how cozy we have gotten with the world (religious or otherwise) . Are the walls broken down? Are the gates wide open? Are there any walls to be rebuilt? Are there any wall builders here?

### **4. Separation Opposed.**

God’s enemy hates separation; He hates assembly testimony. In Nehemiah’s day the attacks on God’s people came from without, and sadly, also from within.

Is it any different today?

(Eph 4:27) “Neither give place (*room*) to the devil.”

(1Pe 5:8) “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”

## 5. Separation Begins in the Home

Everyone (almost) built “over against his house”

Protected homes lead to strong homes, guarded families lead to strong families.

Eliashib the high priest didn't build any wall, just the Sheep gate with no locks. (3:1)

(Neh 13:4) “And before this, Eliashib the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house of our God, *was* allied unto Tobiah:”

Meshullam only built “Over against his chamber” (3:30)

(Neh 6:18) “For *there were* many in Judah sworn unto him (Tobiah), because he *was* the son in law of Shechaniah the son of Arah; and his son Johanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah.”

## 6. Separation- Critical to the Vitality of the Assembly

Structural protections (Walls)

Leadership protections (Gates)

When the wall was finished, activity for God commenced and the plans of the enemy were frustrated.

a) Return to the word of God

(8:1) “And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that *was* before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel.”

b) Return to worship

(8:6) “And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with *their* faces to the ground.”

c) Return to obedience (service)

(8:17) “And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness.”

## 7. Separation in Relationships. - The unequal yoke (Neh 13:23-30)

Guarding relationships (mixed marriages, partnerships etc.)

Valuing the family (the children were in danger of being lost Neh 13:24)

## 8. Profaning of That Which is Holy (Guarding priorities) (Neh 13:15-22)

Profaning the Sabbath day. This translates into counting as common, that which is the Lord's.

1 Pet 2:5,9-12 “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.... But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.”