

The Sadness Of Separation

There are numerous passages in the Bible with the word “separation”. Some of those passages speak of God’s creative powers. God separated the light from the dark, Genesis 1:4. He then separated the water above the expanse, Genesis 1:7. Other passages speak of a different type of separation. The separation of children from parents, husband from wives, Christians non-Christians, and man from God.

It is sad to think of the pain and heartache when children are separated from their parents. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers. For much of his life he lived in Egypt while his father, Jacob lived in Canaan. Jacob thought Joseph had been killed by a wild animal. He tore his clothes and mourned over the loss of his son, Genesis 37:34. It did not matter that Jacob had eleven sons alive. The loss of one was almost unbearable and is the same today. Accidents happen and the lives of children end each day. Every parent reading this article can understand the sadness of these occasions.

I also know of separation between parents and children due to abandonment. There are parents who decide they don’t want the responsibility of having children. Fathers who still want to be 18 years old and just have fun. Mothers who decide they want to have a career instead of changing diapers or mending bruised knees. I know two young children whose mother left them. They now live with their grandparents who love them and provide a stable environment. About once a month the mother shows up and spends Sunday afternoon with them. She then leaves and for the next week the children want to know why she does not love them. Try explaining to a child why a parent finds a “career” more important than them, Titus 2: 4. Fathers likewise are to bring their children up in the “nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). We can and do understand these tragedies just described.

Another separate we see much too often is between husbands and wives. I was talking to a school teacher a few years ago about the problems of divorce. Some children are working on their third of fourth daddy by the time they are in sixth grade. According to the Bible, divorce is permissible only in the case of adultery and then only the “innocent party” has the right to get a divorce and remarry, read Matthew 19:4-9; Mark 10:10-12 Luke 16:18. To divorce a spouse for any other reason is to break one’s covenant with God and their spouse. It is sin and will cause a soul to be lost. It is also very painful. The spouse who did not want the divorce is left without the companionship they deserve. It is hard enough to lose a spouse to

death, it can be even worse to be separated because of a lack of love. We know there are some reading this article that have experience this kind of separation.

Paul instructed the brethren at Corinth to not go beyond what is written, 1 Corinthians 4:6. Yet brethren sometimes want to go beyond what is revealed and authorized by God. In the 1950's and 60's division occurred over churches supporting man made institutions such as colleges and orphan homes. Sometimes divisions occurred not over doctrine but over attitudes. David wrote Psalms 133:1, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" NKJV. The opposite way of saying this would be, "How sad and how unpleasant it is for brethren to have division and strife". There are also times when we must strive to have unity based upon God's Word. There are also times when we must be willing to recognize matters of faith verses matter of opinion.

The saddest separation one can read about, in the Bible, is that which occurs when man sins against God. There are a lot of people who are living their daily lives in this condition. They do not think of what will happen to their soul if they die separated from God. "All of the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them from one another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats." Matthew 25:40-42, Then He will also say to those on the left hand, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:" (Matthew 25: 32,40-42). Of all the separations this is the most serious. It is even more serious than children separated from parents, husbands from their wives, and brethren from each other. This separation can be eternal. If a person dies separated from God they will be lost for eternity. So, what can we do?

In order to take away the pain and sadness of separation one must once again be re-united. Parents can and must re-united with their children. Then, and only then can both be happy. Husband and wives must be reconciled and live together in love. Brethren can seek the unity of the spirit and please God. In order for us to be reconciled to God we must have our sins forgiven. "Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation." (2 Corinthians 5: 18-19). To be united with God one must be in Christ. To be in Christ one must be baptized for the remission of their sins, Galatians 3:27. At that time we can have the hope of heaven and of dwelling in the house of the Lord forever, Psalms 23:6. - - Dennis Tucker