2Thess #166

The proper application of the Doctrine of Separation.

Please let us focus our prayer today on the wildfires of California.

Open in the gospel of Matthew chapter nine RF.

Most Christians fail to apply the Doctrine of Separation in the proper fashion. My guess is - we all fail in this one occasionally and this is another reason to take spiritual growth seriously.

/Those who approach separation with a tough love attitude, every time do more damage than good. Just as those who approach the doctrine of separation with an overly, liberal tolerance, fail themselves and others in their periphery. Every person and every situation, has to be approached with maturity, prayer and waiting on God’s timing. Separation may have several ripple effects and end up debilitating spiritual growth for many, including yourself.\

You never want to be a stumbling block for other Bels. You have to realize once you make a hard stance against someone, even for legitimate reasons, it will touch more than just their life.

The same can be said for weakness such as liberal tolerance for anyone or anything. It will touch the life of several people.

The old saying - every action has a reaction, or every decision has a consequence… holds true!

/The spiritually mature Bel knows how and when to apply certain doctrines and they understand consequences. They allow GOD’s hand to direct them and they rely upon HIS word and guidance to unfold not trying to force or manipulate outcomes. Ultimately GOD is in control, we only bring misery upon ourselves and others when we trust in the flesh.\

One of the biggest mistakes we make in our life, is assuming we know the exact outcome of every situation. That - and also, assuming someone will never change for the better or for the worse.

 REPEAT

Trust in HIM, not what your human viewpoint is telling you.

/Isa 55:8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.

Jer 16:17 “For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their wrongdoing concealed from My eyes.\

In Matthew chapter nine – we see Matthew called into apostleship and probably within 24 hours, Jesus is having a large gathering and dinner with Matthew and his friends.

Dining in the ancient world was almost always a sign of close fellowship. In fact, the Jewish teachers and leaders would only sit at a table with people they trusted, close friends and family.

/Mat 9:10 Then it happened that as **Jesus was reclining** *at the table* in the house, behold, many **tax collectors and sinners** came and *began* dining with Jesus and His disciples.

Jesus was always comfortable around any crowd. This crowd would have had gamblers, prostitutes and corrupt publicans in the mix.\

The Jews despised tax collectors because they were notoriously corrupt, and they worked for the occupying enemy, the Romans—extracting money from their own countrymen, including fishermen and carpenters.

Almost everyone and everything was taxed by the Roman government.

Matthew would have been initially seen as a thorn in the side of several of the other disciples.

[Mat 9:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/9/11/s_938011) And when the Pharisees saw *this,* they said to His disciples, “Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?”

/[Mat 9:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/9/12/s_938012) But when *Jesus* heard *this,* He said, “***It is* not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick.**

Keeping yourself separated from all Unbels and any contact with the cosmic system is not the call for the Christian way of life.\

There has to be a balance in your life, there has to be spiritual growth, so as to discern every situation as GOD wants you to see it and handle it.

Jesus is referencing OT scriptures in which GOD is called the great healer and the physician – (Exo 15:26, Deu 32:39, 2Kings 20:5, Psa 103:3).

There is some great divine sarcasm within these scriptures.

/[Mat 9:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/9/13/s_938013) “**Now go and learn** what this means: ‘**I DESIRE COMPASSION, RATHER THAN SACRIFICE**,’ for I did not come to call **the righteous**, but sinners.”

‘Go and learn’ was a statement used by senior members of the Sanhedrin to indicate someone needed to study more.\

Then Jesus uses Hosea 6:6 which was a warning for the apostate Jews during that period. Notice HE calls them righteous when they certainly were not.

Jump over to the Gospel of John chapter four RF.

/Legalistic people often stay separated from those whom they consider sinners or Unbels. This is no better than the Bel who goes along to get along, accepting every type of person into their inner circle. There has to be a common-sense balance within our walk. As we grow toward maturity, we keep our intimate circle tight, while always having a heart to touch the lost or confused. The perfect balance is living boldly with compassion among the world, while not allowing it to infect our relationship with Christ.\

We are called to walk and evangelize in the world, not become part of the world.

Every day we step outside we enter the devil’s world – most normal Christians live and work among many Unbels.

This is a great opportunity to apply BD, to evangelize… to reflect the nature of Christ, do not run from that!

 REPEAT

/Applying the doctrine of separation is only needed in extreme cases when your own spiritual growth or personal health is in jeopardy. Believers should be growing and learning to apply Virtue Love and problem-solving devices, not seeking the path of least resistance every time they feel challenged. This takes solid discernment in every situation, along with serious prayer.\

Many of you know the story of the woman at the well in Samaria.

So, we will go through this as an exercise to see how Jesus purposefully, put HIMSELF in a position to be right in the middle of what many Jews in that age considered hostile territory.

Jhn 4:1 So then, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that He was making and baptizing more disciples than John

[Jhn 4:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/4/2/s_1001002) (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing; rather, His disciples *were*),

[Jhn 4:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/4/3/s_1001003) He left Judea and went away again to Galilee.

/Jhn 4:4And He had to pass through Samaria.

This was the shortest route and would be perfect timing – there are no coincides within the plan of GOD.\

After the Assyrians captured the city and terminated the kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C., they deported a significant number of Jewish citizens and imported foreigners who intermarried with the remaining Israelites.

Most of these foreigners continued to worship their pagan gods (2Kings 17 into chapter 18).

So, Samaria was avoided and really despised by most Jewish citizens.

[Jhn 4:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/4/5/s_1001005) So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph;

The Samaritans traced their descent from Jacob through Joseph and his sons: Ephraim and Manasseh.

[Jhn 4:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/4/6/s_1001006) and Jacob’s well was there. So Jesus, tired from His journey, was just sitting by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

This was noontime in the heat of the day, this was a fresh, spring fed well.

It is still a tourist attraction today.

In the ancient world the woman went to gather water at the well, the first thing in the morning.

The women came in pairs or small groups, rarely ever alone. Almost never later in the day when there would be activity all around the well.

This woman was more than likely outcast by the local women of Samaria.

/[Jhn 4:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/4/7/s_1001007) A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “**Give Me a drink.”**

Jesus is in an extremely worldly environment and HE is the one who engages the conversation – HE finds us, even in the worst environment.\

 [Jhn 4:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/4/8/s_1001008) For His disciples had gone away to the city to buy food.

God’s plan and HIS timing are never what we assume - therefore, it is important to never be so rigid as to miss an opportunity.

This encounter between a Jewish man, especially a teacher…a Rabbi, and a Samaritan woman was unheard of.

There was a well-known ideology of separation between these two cultures.

[Jhn 4:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/4/9/s_1001009) So the Samaritan woman said to Him, “How *is it that* You, *though* You are a Jew, are asking me for a drink, *though* I am a Samaritan woman?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

/[Jhn 4:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/4/10/s_1001010) Jesus replied to her, “**If you knew the gift**(*dōrea*) **of God,** and who it is who is saying to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and **He would have given you living water**.”

The GRACE GIFT – because HE is the living water of eternal life (Jhn 6, Jhn 7, Exo 17:6, Psa 36:8-9, Isa 12:3, Rev 21:6, Rev 22:17 etc. etc. etc…)\

DOOR-AY-AH, is used 13x in NT, always pointing to **THE GIFT**, the grace plan of God the Father. Which begins with the salvation of the world through faith alone in Christ alone…nothing we earn or deserve.

The Samaritan woman is being sarcastic and yet Jesus does not engage in the negativity – HE instead opens HIMSELF to her.

Jesus is meeting her right on a level she will easily understand.

HE meets us where we are at.

[Jhn 4:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/4/11/s_1001011) She said to Him, “Sir, You have no bucket and the well is deep; where then do You get *this* living water?

[Jhn 4:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/4/12/s_1001012) “You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well and drank of it himself, and his sons and his cattle?”

[Jhn 4:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/4/13/s_1001013) Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again;

[Jhn 4:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/4/14/s_1001014) but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never be thirsty; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life.”

[Jhn 4:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/4/15/s_1001015) The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water so that I will not be thirsty, nor come *all the way* here to draw *water.*”

Jesus had peaked her curiosity.

/[Jhn 4:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/4/16/s_1001016) He said to her, “**Go, call your husband** and come here.”

This is a command (imperative mood) which is covering two principles, one is men were not to be giving gifts to married women. Also, the sword of truth is getting ready to drop.\

It was inappropriate and could cause a scene if a man openly gave a gift to a married woman. Secondary, TLJC is about to drop hard truth upon her, helping her recognize, she needs to be saved.

[Jhn 4:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/4/17/s_1001017) The woman answered and said to Him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have correctly said, ‘I have no husband’;

/[Jhn 4:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/4/18/s_1001018) **for you have had five husbands**, and **the one whom you now have is not your husband**; this *which* you have said *is* true.”

Being fearful of hard truth and liberally tolerant, is no better than being callous and arrogant. Jesus had to stand in the truth firmly.\

She now realizes this is a special man – the light bulb pops on as TLJC explains that salvation and the kingdom of GOD are right in front of her.

He tells her we have to worship in the power of God the HS and in the truth of BD.

Jump down a few verses;

/Jhn 4:25 The woman said to Him, “**I know that Messiah is coming** (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, **He will declare all things to us**.” 26 Jesus said to her, “**I am *He,* the One speaking to you**.”

She comes into salvation because Christ refused to separate from Samaria, HE did not compromise truth. Jesus came to her with empathy and strength. \

TLJC handled many people and circumstances in differing manners and until we truly study and understand HIM we may never fully digest a doctrine like separation.

/“*Christ has different doors for entering into different people’s souls. Into some, he enters by the understanding; into many, by the affections. To some, he comes by the way of fear; to another, by that of hope; and to this woman he came by way of her conscience.”*

 *Charles Spurgeon*\

Separation from Unbelievers is only considered where Bible doctrine is being compromised.

/You don’t separate yourself from all Unbelievers, just as you can not separate your life from contact with the devil’s world. It comes down to who or what is driving a wedge between you and GOD, then separation is the option. We are called to maturity so we can walk into environments like Samaria, with confidence that we can be ambassadors for Christ.\

If you willingly marry an Unbeliever it is a compromise of doctrine, there will be problems. Just the same, if you welcome Unbels into your most intimate, inner circle of friends you may be distracted and compromised.

/2Cor 6:14 **Do not be mismatched with unbelievers**; for what do righteousness and lawlessness share together, or what does light have in common with darkness?

Our most intimate relationships should never be taken lightly. Those closest to us can become our biggest distraction or our greatest supporters.\

The one way to resolve the issue of a spouse who goes negative - is by you maintaining your growth and applying BD to your life.

The Doctrine of Separation is not a magic divorce gimmick that you wave over a broken marriage so you get to start over.

/Mal 2:16 “**For I hate divorce,” says the LORD, the God of Israel**, “and him who covers his garment with violence,” says the LORD of armies. “So **be careful about** **your spirit**, that you do not deal treacherously.”

In the case of abusive relationships in marriage there is a need for physical separation. Divorce is always the most extreme as well as last solution.\

When one spouse goes negative the best solution is given by the Apostle Peter.

/1Pet 3:1 In the same way, you wives, be subject to your own husbands so that even **if any *of them* are disobedient to the word**, they **may be won over without a word** by the behavior of their wives,

Our spiritual growth and dedication to truth, can be the greatest inspiration to lift a negative spouse out of darkness.\