

September 22, 2019 -

Hebrews 13:10-17 -

“Pleasing the Lord”

Introduction:

One of the most neglected Bible teachings today is the Doctrine of Separation. It is found in the Bible and it ought to be taught to Christians. Those who are saved should believe and practice Biblical Separation. In the Old Testament, an important example of separation from ungodly practices is found in Daniel 1. In this chapter, Daniel and his three friends refused to defile themselves by eating the king's food and drinking the king's wine. Instead, they requested to eat vegetables and drink water for ten days as a test. God honored their decision. After ten days they appeared healthier than the other men and the diet of all was switched to the same one observed by Daniel and his friends. Here were young people who understood the destruction of refusing to practice Biblical separation. Why were these boys here in a foreign land? --- Because the Israelites disobeyed God's principles of separation. – **Duet. 31:14-21**

The book of Hebrews ends by telling us how to please the Lord. Pleasing the Lord involves much more than what we believe; it also involves how we behave. God's principle of separation should be part and parcel of Christian living required for pleasing the Lord.

I. Live a Separate Life (13:10-14).

1. Some Jewish believers apparently taught it was spiritually beneficial to eat meat that had been sacrificed at the altar in the temple (13:9). Therefore, the author writes: We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle (13:10). Our altar is the cross of Christ where the once-for-all sacrifice for our sin was made.

2. Those that reject Christ have no right to eat... **Under the old covenant, the bodies of those beasts, whose blood was brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin were burned without the camp** (13:11). Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the high priest offered a sacrifice for the sins of the people. The priests were allowed to eat the meat from all sacrifices, except this one. These bodies had to be burned without [outside] the camp, or city. Therefore, Hebrews 13:12 reveal that Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Jesus was killed outside the city of Jerusalem. He was killed outside the wall of Jerusalem and perfectly fulfilled the picture of the Old Testament.

3. The sin offering was only a shadow, or prophetic type, of Christ's sacrifice on the cross near to the city (Jn 19:20). Because the true sacrifice took place on Calvary, the author writes: **Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach** (13:13).

4. I believe what He is talking about is the idea of separation. A Christian's obligation to God is to be separated from the world.. All He's doing is giving them an analogy to teach them a principle. --- Here's the principle. You people need to be separated from the system. like those sin offerings that nobody could touch but they had to be taken outside the camp? You need to be so separated from the camp of the world. That's essentially what He's getting at. He's simply drawing a little analogy--you can't push it very far. He's saying like the animals in the

sin offering were taken outside, the believer needs to be removed from sinful man. Removed from the world system, removed from it and come apart. As Christians, we must be willing to go outside the camp of culture and the world.

5. Paul defines this concept in **2 Corinthians chapter 6** in some detail, let me read you these words: **"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers for what fellowship have righteousness with unrighteousness and what communion hath light with darkness and what concord has Christ with Satan, what part hath he that believes with an unbeliever. What agreement has the temple of God with idols?"**

Paul says you have nothing to do with the system. Some Christians, don't do evil things, they just wish they could. That's being in love with the system. And as a Christian, God says we're to be separate, get out of the system; come apart unto God. It's an attitude. Jesus said, **"If any man comes after Me let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."** What does that mean? That means to bear the reproach of Christ. The next principle that pleases God is...

II. Sacrifice the right offerings (13:15-16).

1. Now, we no longer make animal sacrifices as the Israelites did, there are sacrifices we are commanded to offer. There are two sacrifices God wants, the first one **is word** the second one **is deed**. Through Jesus, we are to offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips in giving thanks to his name (13:15). God wants us to verbalize our praise, not just think it. The best way we can corporately offer the sacrifice of praise is with our lips.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Colossians 3:17 --- gospel

2. We are also commanded to do good deeds. . . for with such sacrifices God is well pleased (13:16a & c). We must "walk the walk," not just "talk the talk." The phrase do good refers to acts of kindness, such as listening to hurting people. Every day we should offer a sacrifice to the Lord by doing something good to help someone. --- **Ephesians 4:32**

Another sacrifice that pleases the Lord is our willingness to communicate, which means sharing what we have with others (13:16b). We are not to love merely with our words but also with deeds (1 Jn 3:18). To please the Lord, live a separated life," sacrifice the right offerings –

III. Respect your church Elders (13:17).

1. Have a spirit of submission. The author put it like this: **Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account (13:17a-c).**

Please note the word "submit"... gk.. (hypotasso) it means "be subject to," signifying "to place one's self under subjection; to render one's self subordinate.

You will not submit until you understand that this is God's will by His design. Let me explain:

2. "God created man in his own image" and gave him dominion over all the earth," including its plant and animal life (Gen. 1:26-29). The fact that God gave mankind this dominion reveals the original form of government that He ordained for our planet -a theocracy. The term theocracy means God-rule and refers to a form of government in which God's rule is administered by a representative. God created Adam to be His earthly representative and made

him responsible for administering His rule in accord with His will over this earthly province of His universal kingdom. In order to represent God, Adam had to be in God's image.

3. Sometime after God established this earthly theocratic kingdom, His enemy, Satan, successfully persuaded Adam to join him in his revolt against God (Gen. 3:1-6). As a result, Adam fell away from God, which resulted in several tragic consequences. Because God's earthly representative had defected from Him, the theocracy was lost from planet Earth.

Through Adam's defection, Satan usurped the rule of the world system away from God. Thus, God's lost theocratic kingdom and was replaced by Satan's rule and he has continued to dominate the world system ever since the fall of mankind. God sent His son Jesus to die on the cross to destroy Satan's Kingdom and to established the church in His blood. The Church is God's place for His theocratic rule. He instituted the church and as Paul wrote to the ...

Ephesians [11] And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; [12] For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: [13] Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

3. We note the latter part of verse 17 speaks of doing the ministry with joy. One of the greatest ways to fill an elder with joy is to have a willing, submissive spirit toward God and His word. There are other things you can do to fill the elders with joy and make their work lighter and not grievous. Be in the attendance of the church meetings. It is frustrating to see a person forsaking the assembly to the point that they ultimately fall away. The Holy Spirit is seeking to produce in us God's perfect design.

"Brethren, you cannot expect the elders to shepherd you if you aren't willing, cooperative sheep! In short, to bring joy to the elders, be a faithful Christian. That will bring unity and a wonderful communion into our church.

Conclusion:

To sum things up, God's way is that the congregation obeys and submits to its elders and deacons who operate by the guiding of the Holy Spirit. We have the Holy Spirit as an honored Guest in every Christian gathering, and He can be grieved very easily. A frivolous attitude, a rebellious frame of mind, or a fed-up complacency will do it." The Bible warns about having a rebellions spirit against spiritual authority.