



## Doctrine of Separation: Definition: Protection of One's Spiritual Life while under the Influence of Those on the Dark Side

### B. The Doctrine of Separation:

#### 1. Definition

- (1) Separation is the technique of switching from personal love to unconditional love when dealing with others who are in the cosmic system.
- (2) This must be accomplished under the filling of the Holy Spirit. It is not an emotional decision based on anger, jealousy, envy, hatred, petty disagreements, self-centeredness, or inordinate competition.
- (3) Correct separation is to be done after clear-headed consideration of circumstances that occur in interpersonal relationships with family, friends, associates, or acquaintances.
- (4) In other words other people have bad days. They make mistakes, they speak out of turn, or they behave improperly. Such peccadilloes are common to man and only a prig or the officious would be overly offended by them.
- (5) However, when such incidences are consistently repeated then they are behavior patterns instead of anomalies and warrant further consideration.
- (6) The areas of concern do not necessarily have to do with differences of opinion, offensive personality traits, or competing worldviews. A mature believer is able to function in an environment where his belief system is not accepted by others in the group.
- (7) For example, we all have family and extended family. Family reunions usually draw common bloodlines but a multiplicity of personalities and viewpoints. Great flexibility is needed to get through these without becoming argumentative, vociferous, or combative.
- (8) We usually cannot choose those with whom we work but learn to adjust; for example, those on a sports teams, musical groups such as band, orchestra, or choir; church congregations, or schoolrooms.
- (9) Social skills enable us to orient and adjust to these situations in order to accomplish a common objective.
- (10) Into all of these environments the believer, whether in spiritual childhood, adolescence, or maturity, takes with him an inventory of doctrinal principles which define his spiritual skills.
- (11) These principles establish one's norms and standards and develop a scale of values that sets priorities in life, determines what is right and wrong, discerns the difference between good and evil, and is able to distinguish between wheel-tracks of wickedness and wheel-tracks of righteousness.
- (12) One's ability to draw these conclusions depends on his level of spiritual growth. Therefore, the person in spiritual childhood is far more vulnerable to the influence of others than one who is in spiritual adolescence, and he more susceptible than one in spiritual maturity.
- (13) Therefore, the decision to separate should occur for the spiritually immature more quickly than for the more spiritually advanced.



- (14) However, this presents an obvious problem. Those with a small inventory of biblical ideas are vulnerable to the subtlety of duplicity and deceit that is peddled by a degenerate society's agent provocateurs.
- (15) Therefore, parents must selectively determine when they are to be the watchdog and decision-maker of their children's associates.
- (16) But for those who have advanced far enough to be at least in the arena of spiritual self-esteem have the problem-solving devices of personal love for God and unconditional love for all mankind to manage the providential preventive suffering involved with attacks from the Dark Side.
- (17) With spiritual autonomy they are able to use their doctrinal inventory to determine if further association with certain people jeopardizes their spiritual growth, hinders their spiritual momentum, or challenges their priorities.
- (18) If these things are the case then there are two types of separation that they may execute in order to safeguard their spiritual life and keep their priorities in their proper perspective.