THE SEPARATION OF THE CLEAN & THE UNCLEAN

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1. Introduction

Beloved in Christ, today we gather to explore a vital theme that resonates throughout Scripture—

the separation of the clean from the unclean. In a world filled with confusion and moral ambiguity, it is imperative that we understand God's call to holiness and the importance of living a life that reflects His standards.

2. The Call to Holiness

God has called us to be a holy people, set apart for His purposes. In 1 Peter 1:15-16, we read, "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'" This call to holiness is not merely a suggestion; it is a divine mandate that requires our obedience and commitment.

3. Old Testament Foundations

The Laws of Clean and Unclean

The concept of clean and unclean is rooted in the laws given to Israel. In Leviticus 11, God outlines dietary laws that distinguish between clean and unclean animals. These laws were not only for physical health but also served as a spiritual lesson about purity and holiness.

• Leviticus 11:1-47: Here, God categorizes animals, showing His desire for His people to maintain a

distinction between what is holy and what is common.

The Importance of Distinction

In Leviticus 20:25-26, God commands His people to separate the clean from the unclean, emphasizing their holiness. "You shall therefore separate the clean beast from the unclean..." This call to distinction reflects God's character and His desire for His people to be set apart.

4. New Testament Teachings

Paul's Exhortations on Separation

The Apostle Paul continues this theme of separation in his letters to the early church. In 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, he urges believers not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers. This passage serves as a reminder that our relationships and associations should reflect our commitment to Christ.

• 1 Corinthians 5:9-13: Paul addresses immorality within the church and emphasizes the need to separate from those who claim to be believers but live unclean lives. "But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral..."

Additional Teachings on Holiness

- 1 Corinthians 6:12-19: Paul teaches that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and that we must honor God with our bodies.
- 1 Corinthians 3:17: "If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are."
- Titus 2:12-15: Paul instructs believers to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, living soberly, righteously, and godly.

5. Living a Life of Separation

Practical Steps for Believers

As we strive to live a life of separation, let us consider practical steps to uphold our calling:

- 1. Examine Our Influences: Assess the people, media, and environments we engage with. Are they uplifting our faith or leading us astray?
- 2. Commit to Holiness: Make a conscious decision to pursue holiness in our thoughts, actions, and relationships. Ephesians 5:3-7 instructs us to avoid immorality and unclean practices.
- 3. Stay Grounded in the Word: Regularly read and

meditate on Scripture. This will help us discern what is clean and unclean according to God's standards.

4. Seek Accountability: Surround yourself with fellow believers who encourage and challenge you in your walk with Christ.

Guidelines for Modesty and Appearance

As Apostolic Pentecostals, we adhere to biblical principles regarding modesty and appearance. Here are some scriptural references and teachings that guide our practices:

- 1 Timothy 2:8-9: "I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing."
- 1 Peter 3:1-4: This passage encourages women to focus on the inner beauty rather than outward adornment. "Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—rather let it be the hidden person of the heart..."
- Deuteronomy 22:5: "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an

abomination to the Lord your God." This emphasizes the importance of gender distinction in dress.

• 1 Corinthians 11:5-6: Discusses the principle of women having long hair as a covering, indicating a distinction in appearance.

Abstaining from Worldly Practices

As believers, we also abstain from various worldly practices that can compromise our commitment to holiness:

- We do not have televisions in our homes or on our phones, nor do we watch movies.
- We do not participate in dances, proms, gambling, or visit gambling halls, skating rinks, or mixed swimming events with other families.
- We do not attend water parks or dress in bathing suits in public. Women wearing shorts is the same abomination as wearing pants. Women should not wear pants or skirts that are short or have splits. Our Apostolic Pentecostal ladies should dress modestly, avoiding short sleeves; the shirt length should be three-quarters or, if your conviction allows, to the wrist. No short, sleeveless dresses.
- We do not attend baseball games, football games, soccer, or any organized sports that take us and our children out of the house of God.
- We abstain from pool halls and all appearances of

- evil. Women should not wear men's clothing, boots, or hats. Nor should a man be effeminate or wear women's hairstyles or clothing.
- We stand against homosexuality, lesbianism, transgenderism, and any ideologies that oppose the Word of God. We believe in the distinction between a man and a woman, and that the two shall be one when they are married. We do not believe in same-sex marriage; we stand against it.
- We believe a woman should look like a woman, and a man should look like a man. A man should not act like a woman, and a woman should not act like a man. We believe in the distinction of genders, and that there are only two genders: male and female. We stand against all ideologies that oppose the Word of God

Social Media and Entertainment

We also take a firm stance against various social media platforms and forms of entertainment that can lead us away from holiness:

- We stand against Facebook, except for work-related purposes.
- We stand against TikTok and Instagram, as well as violent video games that contain pornography.
- We recommend that no teenager should have a cell phone with internet access until they are 18 years old.

We must monitor the internet and social media usage.

- We advocate for the use of technology solely for business or for listening to Apostolic Pentecostal preaching on YouTube or worship music.
- We stand against rock 'n' roll, secular music of any form or fashion, and also against worldly rap and hiphop. Southern country music, which often promotes worldly values, should not be on our phones or in our homes.

The Role of the Holy Ghost

Holiness comes through the work of the Holy Ghost within us, evidenced by speaking in tongues. The fire of the Holy Ghost works to remove the old things from us. When we are born of the water and the Spirit, as outlined in Acts 2:38, we experience a transformation where old things pass away, and all things become brand new, as stated in 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Colossians 3.

• Putting Off the Old Man: Through the Acts 2:38 experience, we put off the old man by repentance, water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire with the evidence of speaking in tongues (Acts 1:4-7; Acts 2:1-4, 17-38; Acts 3:19; Mark 16:17). This transformative experience signifies our rebirth and sets us on a path of holiness and

righteousness.

- Becoming a New Creation: When we are baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost, we are not merely forgiven; we are made new. The old man, with its sinful desires and practices, is replaced by a new man, created in righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24).
- Long Hair as a Sign of Holiness: We believe that women should have long, uncut hair as a symbol of their commitment to holiness and distinction in gender. 1 Corinthians 11:15 states, "But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering." This principle reflects the beauty of God's design and the importance of maintaining a distinction between genders.
- The Evidence of the Holy Ghost: If you have not spoken in tongues, you do not have the Holy Ghost yet. The sign of sonship is speaking in tongues, which serves as an outward manifestation of the inward work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Standing Against Adultery and Fornication

We also stand firmly against adultery and fornication, which are works of the flesh. The Bible clearly outlines the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21: "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of

wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like..."

We must strive to live a life that reflects the holiness of God and abstain from all forms of sin.

Guidelines for Exercise and Gym Practices

We also take a strong stance regarding exercise environments. We stay out of worldly gyms where women are dressed in an ungodly way that leads to lust and adulterous affairs. Women should never be in a man's gym dressed immodestly; they should be dressed in holiness and modesty according to the Word of God. Men should exercise in male-only gyms but should still be dressed in sweats and shirts with three-quarter sleeves.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the call to separate the clean from the unclean is a divine invitation to live in holiness and righteousness. As we embrace this calling, let us remember that our separation is not merely for ourselves but for the glory of God and the advancement of His kingdom. May we strive to be a people who reflect His holiness in every aspect of our lives.

7. References

- Leviticus 11
- Leviticus 20:25-26
- Numbers 19:1-22
- Isaiah 52:11
- Ezekiel 22:26
- 2 Corinthians 6:14-18
- 1 Corinthians 5:9-13
- Galatians 5:19-21
- Ephesians 5:3-7
- Colossians 3:5-10
- 1 Timothy 2:8-9
- 1 Peter 3:1-4
- Deuteronomy 22:5
- Hebrews 12:14
- 1 John 2:15-17
- Acts 1:4-7
- Acts 2:1-4, 17-38
- Acts 3:19
- Mark 16:17
- 2 Corinthians 5:17