

1. Definition:

- a. **Separation** is a decision or action to discriminate, to part company, to break away, or to sever a relationship.
 1. This decision or action must be formulated in the soul based upon whatever Bible doctrine or lack of Bible doctrine is resident there.
 2. It must be a **decision of will or volition** based on the norms and standards (N/S) of the **conscience** (the evaluator) in the soul.
- b. For the unbeliever these decisions most often are based on erroneous or false information and motivation.
- c. For the believer in Jesus Christ these decisions to separate demand objective thinking and the function of the **royal family honor code** (R.F.H.C.), a spiritual code of conduct resulting from the inculcation of Bible principles. **Bible doctrine** in the soul plus the **filling** (controlling influence) **of the Holy Spirit** plus **positive decisions** (compatible with divine norms and standards) produces the function of the royal family honor code (the means of living the Christian way of life).

B.D.+F/HS+(+V)→R.F.H.C.

- d. For the believer **any legitimate separation** should come only after a maximum intake of Bible doctrine for a reasonable period of time. Then Bible doctrine in the soul of the believer does the dictating as to how, when and from whom to separate.
- e. The only **legitimate basis for separation** for the Christian is to avoid a compromise of Bible doctrine. (2 John 10; Rom. 16:17; Gal. 1:8, 9; 1 Tim. 1:3, 4; 6:3, 4, 5, 20, 21) Knowledge of such a compromise comes from the study of the Word of God. (2 Tim. 2:15,16; 3:14, 16, 17)
- f. The Christian must be especially **careful not to separate** based on false motivation, or on misrepresentations of the Scriptures, or false doctrines. (Rom. 16:17; 1 Tim. 4:1-4; 2 Tim. 3:13; 4:3, 4; 2 Pet. 2:1-3ff; 3:16, 17)
- g. Separation is not ever to be total and permanent, as divorcement; it always seeks reconciliation. (Matt. 18:15, 21, 22; 2 Thess. 3:15)
Just as divine discipline is not repudiation or total rejection by God as per Romans 11:1-5ff, 11 so separation is not total and permanent divorcement.

2. Vocabulary:

- a. περιίστεμι - peristemi – (Greek) to avoid, to shun, to circumnavigate
(Titus 3:9; 2 Tim. 2:16)

- b. παραιτέομαι - paraitoomai – to reject, (on objective grounds, to avoid, to decline, to register a legitimate complaint against) (Titus 3:10; 2 Tim. 5:23)
- c. ἐκκλίνω - ekklineo – to turn away, to avoid (Rom. 16:17b)
- d. ἐξέρχομαι - exerchomai – to come out (2 Cor. 6:17a)
- e. ἀφορίζω - aphoridzo – to separate (2 Cor. 6:17b)
- f. διχάζω - dichadzo – to cause a separation (Matt. 10:35)
- g. διχοστασία - dichostacia – dissention (Rom. 16:17a)
- h. ἐξάίρω - exairo – to remove, to drive away (very strong verb) (1 Cor. 5:13)
- i. φεύγω - pheugo – to flee (1 Cor. 6:18; 10:14; 1 Tim.6:11; 2 Tim. 2:22)
- j. χωρίζω - choridzo – to divide , to separate, to cause to separate; in the passive voice it means: to separate oneself, to be separated (Philemon 15)
- k. ἀποτίθημι - apothithemi – to lay aside, to take off, to rid oneself of (Heb.12:1)
- l. ἀπέχω - apecho – to receive in full; in the middle voice it means: to keep away, to abstain from (1 Thess. 5:22)
- m. סור - sur - (Hebrew) to turn aside, to turn away, to depart (Prov. 3:7; 4:27)
- n. סטה - satah - (Hebrew) to turn aside, to decline (Prov.4:15)

3. Compound vocabulary words:

- a. μή + λαμβάνω - me+lambano - **not** to receive or receive not (2 John 10)
- b. μή + γίνομαι - me+ginomai - to **not** be misled (2 Cor. 6:14)
- c. μή + συντρέχω - me+suntrecho - to **not** run together with (1 Pet. 4:4)
- d. μή + συναναμείγνυμι - me+sunanameignumi - to not associate with (1 Cor. 5:9, 10, 11; 2 Thess. 3:14)
- e. ערב + אל - 'al 'arab - (Hebrew) **not** to intermingle, not to fellowship, not to associate (Prov. 24:21)

4. Believers in Jesus Christ must separate from the control of sin and their old sin natures. (Rom. 6:11-14; Heb. 12:1) and the attack of evil. (Eph. 6:13, 16; 1 Thess. 5:22)

5. Believers in Jesus Christ are commanded specifically to flee from these five things: (note the verb: φεύγω - pheugo – to flee)

- a. Flee youthful lusts. (2 Tim. 2:22)
- b. Flee sexual impurity. (1 Cor. 6:18)
- c. Flee from the lust for money. (1 Tim. 6:11)
- d. Flee from idolatry. (1 Cor. 10:14)
- e. Flee to the mountains (Matt. 24:16-22) (Believing Jews in the future Tribulation)

6. Believers in Jesus Christ must separate from every manifestation of evil which is *cosmos diabolikus* (**Satan's world system** antagonistic to God's plan). (Prov. 3:7; 4:27; 14:16; 16:6, 17; Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 Thess. 5:21-22; 2 Tim. 2:15, 16)
7. Believers in Jesus Christ must **separate from religion and apostasy**. (Note: Religion is here defined as man attempting to gain God's approval or to appease "some force" by his own merits. (2 Cor. 6:16, 17; 2 Tim. 3:5; 2 John 9, 10, 11) These passages demand that a believer should separate from any person, group, or any organization that distracts or separates him or her from the teaching and application of Bible doctrine.
- 8 Separation from certain unbelievers:
 - a. The believer in Jesus Christ lives **in the world** but is not **of the world**, that is, the world system. We live in and among unbelievers all the time. (John 5:21, 22)
 - b. We cannot and should not separate from all unbelievers. We have friends, family, children, parents, and people we work with who are unbelievers. (1 Cor. 5:9, 10) These are the people to whom we witness concerning the salvation message of God. (Rom. 1:18; 1 Cor. 9:22)
 - c. **Principle**: Never separate yourself from an unbeliever unless Bible doctrine will be compromised if the relationship continues.
 - d. Examples:
 - (1) Believers should never marry unbelievers. (2 Cor. 6:14)
 - (2) Believers should not be involved in any business or commercial venture or political organization or secret society in which principles of Bible doctrine are compromised. (Prov. 1:10-19; Jer. 15:17; 1 Pet. 4:3, 4)
9. It may be necessary to separate from certain other believers. (1 Cor. 5:13)
 - a. Separation within the local church because of open sin. (Matt. 18:15-18; 1 Cor. 5:1, 2, 10, 11, 13)
 - b. Separation from apostasy in the local church. (2 John 9-11)
 - c. Separation from those who cause dissension, strife, or controversy. (Rom. 16:17, 18; 2 Thess. 3:6, 7, 11, 14, 15; Titus 3:9,10)
10. It may be necessary to separate from certain pastor/teachers. (1 Cor. 5:13)
 - a. Accusation of a pastor/teacher - (1 Tim. 5:17-25; 6:3-11)
 - b. Qualifications for a pastor /teacher - (1 Tim. 3:2-7; Titus 1:5-16)
 - c. Failure of some pastor/teachers - (2 Tim. 3:1-9)
 - d. Disqualification of a pastor/teacher - (1 Tim. 1:19, 20; 2 Tim. 2:16-17; Titus 3:9-14; 2 John 9-11)
 - e. Restoration of a pastor/teacher – 2 Tim. 2:20-22)

11. Sometimes we must separate from the members of our own family.
 - a. **Note:** This is not the same thing as getting a divorce!
 - b. Any separation from members of one's own family must be based on Bible doctrine. (Matt. 10:34-39)
 - c. Many times our greatest antagonists or enemies are members of our own families. (Micah 7:6)
 - d. Family unity is established in only two ways:
 - (1) The "**laws of divine establishment**" (Biblical principles of **free will**, **marriage**, **family**, and **nationalism**) can produce a family bond.
 - (2) The principles of Bible doctrine and the love of the Lord Jesus Christ should produce family love.
 - e. Legitimate separations for short periods of time between husband and wife for prayer are permissible. (1 Cor. 7:5, 6)

12. Separation from those who are totally unstable is often necessary. (Prov. 24:21)

13. **Principle:** Bible doctrine is the basis of all motivation for living the Christian life; therefore, Bible doctrine is the only basis for any separation.

14. **Principle:** Bible doctrine is your very life! (Prov. 4:5-13)