**Dead to the world – 2 Cor. 6:17**

**Focal Truth: Believers are dead to the world by separating from the world**

**Observations**

1. **Believers separate from unbelievers because they are different 6:14 – 15**

*Do not be bound together with unbelievers…*

1. Do not partner with the unbeliever in deep relationships – **“bound** **together”** –

**connected to a different kind** – danger of intimate friendship with

 unbelievers **– Pr. 13:20 – he who walks with wisemen will be wise, but he**

 **who is the companion to a fool will be destroyed**

b. Believers are righteous - unbelievers are lawless

 c. Believers are light – unbelievers are darkness

 d. Believers are in Christ – unbelievers are controlled by satan = Belial

 e. Believers live by faith – unbelievers live in unbelief

 f. Believers are possessed by God – unbelievers are possessed by idolatry

 1 Pet. 4:3 – 4 - *for the time is already past for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In all this they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation and they malign you…*

1. **Believers separate from unbelievers because God lives in them – 6:16**

*For we are the temple of the living God*

 a. Believers are possessed by God – I will dwell in them…

 1 Cor. 6:19 – *do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit*

 *who is in you, whom you have from God and that you are not your own?*

 **The glory of God** dwells in the temple

 **The presence of God** dwells in the temple

 **The power of God** dwells in the temple

 **The holiness of God** dwells in the temple

 **The temple is a holy place separated from sinfulness**

 **The temple is the meeting place between God & man**

 b. Believers are the people of God – I will be their God, they will be my

 people

 1 Pet. 2:10 – *for once you were not a people, but now you are the people*

 *of God, you had not received mercy now you have received mercy*

 Rom. 9:25 -26 *– he says in Hosea, I will call those who were not My*

 *people, my people & her who was not my beloved, beloved. It shall*

 *be that in the place where it was said to them, you are not my people*

 *there they shall be called sons of the living God*

1. **Believers separate from unbelievers by setting boundaries – 6:17 – 18**

*Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate, says the Lord*

 a. Believers set boundaries with the relationships & things of the world

 *Come out from their midst & be separate* = **mark off boundaries**

 b. Believers do not avoid unbelievers but set boundaries with unbelievers & their

 practices

c. Believers do not cling = (touch) to unclean & sinful thinking & lifestyles

 d. God welcomes His children as they separate from the world – I will

 welcome you & a father to you, & you shall be sons & daughters to me

**God’s children set boundaries with the world in order to please the heavenly Father** Ps. 1:1 – *how blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers!*

1. **Believers cleanse themselves from sinfulness to live in holiness – 7:1**

*Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all*

*defilement of flesh & spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God*

1. Believers live on God’s promises in order to separate from the world

*having these promises…*

1. Believers cleanse themselves from fleshly & spiritual sinful defilement

*cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh & spirit*

1. Believers make it their aim to live in holiness in the fear of God

*perfecting holiness in the fear of God*

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. **Close relationships with unbelievers draw believers into sinful living – 1 Cor. 15:33**

*Bad company corrupts good morals*

1. **Believers are called out to come out of the world – 1 Pet. 2:9**

*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*

1. **As a believer set boundaries in your relationships with unbelievers – Pr. 22:24**

*Do not associate with a man given to anger, or go with a hot – tempered man, or you will learn His ways & find a snare for yourself*

1. **As a believer cleanse yourself from sin and live in holiness – 2 Cor. 7:1**

*let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of the flesh & spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God*

**To the praise of the glory of His grace in Jesus Christ – the Lord is near to the door – Come Lord Jesus!**