

# The King's Highway.

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness.

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness.—Isa. 35-8

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## SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD

Mrs. Loren Wilson, Dec 25

Sermon by Rev. Seth C. Rees.

Text: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers."—II. Corinthians 6:14.

Corinth was inflated with culture, and yet it reeked with crime and corruption. There were people in the Church at Corinth who were guilty of unnameable sins and impurities. There were others in the Church who were inclined to overlook it. The apostle in the words of my text sends an emphatic protest, insisting upon righteousness and a holy life; righteousness and true holiness. What I have read is the eternal Word of God. It is as applicable to modern cities as it was to Corinth. It is a message of the Most High to the Church everywhere.

In this text I notice that there are set forth a number of the primary elements of Christian living, of practical righteousness, of true holiness. Those of us who stand for a whole Gospel stand for practical holiness. We may enjoy the sensational and sometimes witness the spectacular; we thoroughly believe in the demonstrations of the blessed Holy Ghost; but we always place emphasis upon the importance of practical holiness, of every-day righteousness—righteousness in business and in pleasure as well as in the Church or in religion.

One of the first elements that I notice in this prohibition is the element of separation. Separation is not only fundamental to every individual; it is a fundamental principal to the Church. From all time God has called for a people separated, set apart away from and different from this old world. The word "Church" in the Greek, we all understand—we have heard that word whether we know Greek or not—we have heard that word "church" means "called out," or "the called out one." There is no true Church that has not been called out. There is no true Church that has not come out. When God called Abraham He called him to come out not only from his own country, BUT FROM HIS OWN PEOPLE. When He called Israel He called them not only to leave Egypt to go a three days' journey to the land of promise, but He called them to take all their belongings and leave not a hoof behind. The importance of separation is recognized all through the Bible. The element of separation is recognized all through the Bible. The element of separation is recognized in this world in everything except religion

### Quarantine or Death

No man continues to live in the same house with a smallpox case, a case of yellow fever, or the black plague. Separation is necessary. In all walks of life men recognize the necessity of separation. There are certain things in this world that are so contagious and so contaminating as well that it is necessary to quarantine and to fumigate. How careful the authorities are in some cases to quarantine and fumigate. If the same degree of separation were recognized in the Protestant Church of America, the same degree of fumigation were practiced, the same degree of quarantine were allowed to follow, the Church of this country might sweep the world with the Gospel of Jesus.

How the military camps of America were quarantined against Spanish Influenza! This prohibition was carried into effect for the purpose of saving human life! If the same elements were recognized and the same principles practiced in holy things we would have a Church pure enough, mighty enough, invulnerable enough and sufficiently immune to this world so that we could girdle the world with salvation.

Our subject this morning is separation, prohibition, quarantine, fumigation; that tremendous and fundamental truth that God has planted in the economy of the Gospel—running all through the Christian Scriptures—establishing the fact that there is no genuine Christianity without separation from the world.

### Where is Our Citizenship?

I notice that the prohibition first applies to our friendships and our affections. First of all, we are forbidden to allow unholy friendships, to allow our affections to become entangled with either unholy people or unholy things; that we are not to love this world; that if we love it, the love of the Father is not in us; that we are forbidden to enter into an intimacy of friendship amounting to fellowship with the unsaved. Any professing Christian who is closely allied with ungodly companions or who becomes entangled in their affections is openly violating the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our mission to the unsaved is with the Gospel. We are never to come down to the level of this old world in social life. We are never to stoop to the practices of

this old world in order to win it. The woman who compromises a hair's breadth thinking that she may thus win her ungodly husband to Christ, is making a mistake, and vice versa. Everywhere it is the same. If you think to enter the pleasure of some worldly friends in order to make them feel that you are free with them you are losing the last possible chance to win them to Jesus. Your chance to win them is to offer them something infinitely superior to everything they will ever get in this old world, and not to enter into sinful pleasures.

Not that we elevate ourselves, or announce with the spirit that we are more holy than others. We must maintain our citizenship and allegiance to the government under which we live; we hold true to our citizenship in heaven. We secured our naturalization papers, our citizenship, in the kingdom of heaven by relinquishing every claim to our citizenship in the world. How shall we maintain our citizenship in heaven if we follow anything that would lead to the holding of our citizenship in this country? We are under prohibition; we are under quarantine; we are forbidden to touch or to taste—right here in the context—we are commanded to come out. We are forbidden to touch or to taste or to handle the unclean thing. We are to be peculiar and distinctly separate from the world in all that the Bible teaches.

### The Marriage Question

The element of prohibition or the element of separation and the principle of prohibition as announced here applies to family relations. It forbids inter-marriage with the world. It forbids a Christian man marrying a non-Christian woman, however beautiful and amiable and accomplished she may be. It forbids a Christian girl from receiving the attentions of an unsaved young man, much less to marry him. It announces in the most emphatic language that we are not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. No woman has ever violated this fundamental principle without suffering a thousand pangs as a consequence. No man has ever entered into an unholy compact in family relations without having a chance of reaping the saddest consequences. I do not wonder that some of our denominations have had a discipline forbidding their people to marry outside of the

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