

Majoring on the Majors!
Part 3: *Love and Separation!*
Slide Notations

Orange Story

There should be no presumption on our part where life and death are involved!

We must draw near to God, hear His voice, and obey His directions... If we want to really live in, and thru, “times such as these...”

Times like these... “Know this, that the last times will be dangerous... men will be selfish takers, money centered, proud & arrogant boasters & slanderers, unpersuadable, ungrateful, unholy... w/o natural affections, covenant breakers, liars, w/o self control, angry, haters of virtue and those who are good, surrendered to our enemy, head-heavy, conceited, more in love with pleasure than God – having a form of godliness...” **2T3.1-5 Paul is talking about a “last times” compromised church!**

“Know this, that the last times will be dangerous... men will want to get more than give – more money focused than God centered, unbowed & ungoverned users of ungodly words, unteachable, discontent, unchanging... heart hearted, word breakers, liars, controlled by desires, angry, hostile to confronters w/ truth, double-agents, head-heavy, self promoters, more in love w/pleasure than God – living w/o power...” **Paul is talking about a church with its eyes on wrong things – whose light has become darkness!**

No one should have to question why America is in a time of such moral, educational, economic & political upheaval! The Church has been broken!

Steps to drawing near... Step 1: The Presentation! We come boldly to the throne of grace knowing that we are already accepted in the beloved! **E1.3-6** We approach Him w/willingness to accept and obey everything God says to us! Knowing obedience fosters relationship that develops intimacy with God! Intimacy with God is our target and our motivation is the substantial faith that flows from it! Faith enough for us... and faith enough for our worlds! Apart from Him, our faith can never be substantial – we must know Him, His love, His handling!

Steps to drawing near... Step 2: The Separation! We all pretty much understand...

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world is passing away...” **1J2.15,16**

“How do we mix light w/darkness... Christ w/the devil... believers w/infidels? You are the temple of God... so come out from among them and be separate and stop touching what is unclean and I will receive you, and be a Father to you and you will be My sons and daughters!” **2C6.14-18**

“Let everyone that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity to be a vessel of gold or silver and not of wood or clay... be a vessel of honor, not dishonor... if you purge yourself you will be a vessel of honor, useable for the Master, prepared for every good work!” **2T2.19ff**

“when you became followers of God, having received the word thru much difficulty and joy in the Holy Spirit, you became examples of faith... and your works show how real our ministry was to you because you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to wait for His Son from heaven!”

1Th1.6-10

“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands and purify your hearts, double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” **James 4.8-10**

We all understand separation from evil for the sake of intimacy with God... But how about separation from good for the sake of intimacy with God?

The Real Separation! “As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among all others.” **SOS 2.3** I am my beloved’s and He is mine! **6.3** I am my beloved’s and His desire is toward me! **7.9** Come, my beloved, let us go into the field; let us lodge in the villages. Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish... there will I give you my love. **v11,12**

This is the separation that comes from love that sets aside all other loves!

We all get it! Fall in love! All the “others” on the field... gone! We eat, sleep, think about, and can’t wait until the next moment we see... Our hearts are glad when we are near... Sad when we feel apart... “I am yours and yours alone!” “I can’t see me loving nobody but you...”

Instead of... Having God as a friend... how about making Him the love of your life...? Makes your love for others, “perfect!” Love Him first/most and He will give you a love for others without fear/torment! Having Him out there in the field of your life how about you living in Him? It’s a new and living way God has planned! Completely safe from the storms/life!

I live to know you more!

The Real Separation! “But when it pleased God (who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me by His grace) to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him to the nations, immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood... but I went into Arabia... and after three years I returned... **Gal 1.12-18**

This is the guy on the Damascus Road (**A9**), running to the guy who struck him down on the Damascus Road – “I’m going to Him!”

A lot like his Master, “who was driven by the Spirit into the wilderness!” **Mt4**

This is the separation that comes from appreciation for Love’s sacrifice!

All of us would say we want intimacy with God, our Savior... But how many of us have set aside the time to back up the words... So what’s your next step?