



Avoid Infection and Contamination!



2 Corinthians 6:11-7:1

As our country fights the invisible enemy COVID-19, we have been given strict guidelines in order to avoid contracting the illness. These include the following: (1) Staying away from large groups of people; (2) Practicing social distancing (keeping a distance from other people); (3) Keeping clean by repeated hand washings; (4) Separating from anyone who has the virus; etc. The purpose of all these things is to protect ourselves from being infected by the fast-spreading virus.

In the spiritual realm, we must likewise be on guard to protect ourselves and keep ourselves uncontaminated by the world system. Our personal purity can be easily compromised if we are not careful. James reminds us to keep ourselves unspotted from the world (*James 1:27*). “Touch not the unclean thing” (*2 Cor. 6:17*). “Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind” (*Rom. 12:2*). In other words, do not let the world squeeze you into its mold. “Love not the world...know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (*1 John 2:15; James 4:4*). This involves proper distancing from the unsaved: “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful” (*Psalms 1:1*).

Does this mean we are not to be with lost people? The Lord Jesus showed the perfect balance. On the one hand He was the Friend of publicans and sinners (*Mark 2:16*), but He was never contaminated by their sins. He was “separate from sinners” (*Heb. 7:26*). He was with them in order to help them and win them, but He never compromised His personal purity. He ever remained “holy, harmless, undefiled” (*Heb. 7:26*). May we imitate the Master by practicing true Biblical separation, not monkish isolation!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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