

## Separation

We believe that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly sinful pleasures, practices, and association is commanded of God (*2 Timothy 3:1-4; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 1:9-11; 2 Corinthians 6:14*).

### **2 Timothy 3:1–4 (NLT)**

You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. <sup>2</sup>For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. <sup>3</sup>They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. <sup>4</sup>They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God.

### **1 John 2:15–17 (NLT)**

<sup>15</sup>Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. <sup>16</sup>For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. <sup>17</sup>And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

### **2 John 9–11 (NLT)**

<sup>9</sup>Anyone who wanders away from this teaching has no relationship with God. But anyone who remains in the teaching of Christ has a relationship with both the Father and the Son.

<sup>10</sup>If anyone comes to your meeting and does not teach the truth about Christ, don't invite that person into your home or give any kind of encouragement. <sup>11</sup>Anyone who encourages such people becomes a partner in their evil work.

### **2 Corinthians 6:14 (NLT)**

<sup>14</sup>Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness?

*What does it mean to be separated to God?*

*What three things in the world are we not to indulge (1 John 2:16)? What are each?*

**1 John 2:16 (NLT)**

<sup>16</sup>For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.

*Why does the world hate consistent Christians (John 15:19)?*

**John 15:19 (NLT)**

<sup>19</sup>The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.

*What is the difference between legalism and grace?*

*What is meant by apostasy?*

*How do people encourage false teachers?*

Apostasy in Christianity is the rejection of Christianity by someone who formerly was a Christian. The term apostasy comes from the Greek word *apostasia* ("ἀποστασία") meaning defection, departure, revolt or rebellion. It has been described as "a willful falling away from, or rebellion against, Christianity. Apostasy is the rejection of Christ by one who has been a Christian...."<sup>[2]</sup> "Apostasy is a theological category describing those who have voluntarily and consciously abandoned their faith in the God of the covenant, who manifests himself most completely in Jesus Christ.