

---

## ‘SEPARATED BUT NOT DIVORCED’

Jude 20-23

---

Over 2000 years ago, there was an epistle written not to a church, not to a person, not to a city but it was addressed to all believers in the gospel. When the Judeo-Christian Church was in its infancy, followers of Jesus Christ would ebb and flow between the one constant of life, “change.” Likewise so does each generation’s relationship with God. We still struggle with our commitment to the core values of Christianity. If we are not careful to guard the truth, we will run the risk of developing a synthetic religion. As believers, followers of Christ, we must refute, and guard against erroneous and unholy doctrines, principles and practices, especially such as would lower the Godhead of Christ, and the reality and power of His suffering and death, as an atoning sacrifice; and against the assertion that believers being saved by grace, are not required to obey the commandments! We have tried to live in a sympiotic relationship with the world since the beginning of time where living together in close association is mutually advantageous.

We who live as Christians are called out of the world, from the evil spirit and temper of it; called above the world, to higher and better things, to heaven, things unseen and eternal; called from sin to Christ, from vanity to seriousness, from uncleanness to holiness, and this according to His divine purpose and grace. If we are sanctified and glorified, all the honor and glory must be given to God and to him alone. As it is God who begins the work of grace in the souls of men, so it is He who carries it on, and perfects it.

Let us not trust in ourselves, nor in our stock of grace already received, but in him, and in him alone. The mercy of God is the Fountain of all the good we have or hope for; mercy, not only to the miserable, but to the guilty, for the weak and the strong. God wants to remind us of His unquenchable, immutable Love and that we of Faith must guard the truth!

*Reverend Curtis L. Echols, Jr.*