

SHOULD WE SEPARATE OUR SECULAR AND SPIRITUAL LIVES?

Luke 16:8 ... "...For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light."
Romans 12:2 ... "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

When we use the word "secular," we are referring to non-religious activities and beliefs. For instance, as a Christian, I believe in the accuracy of the Bible, I believe that Christ died for my sins, and I choose to serve him. There is also a secular side to my life in which I have opinions about politics, the environment, law, and in which I maintain acquaintances with people who are not Christians.

The question today is, should we separate our secular lives from our spiritual lives, or should we join them together? Many people in the body of Christ – the community of Christians – are confused about this issue. They claim faith in and allegiance to Christ, but enjoy lifestyles that are in conflict with the teachings of the Bible. If you try to keep your life in Christ separate from your life in the world (so you can still enjoy the world's pleasures), you will invite more temptation than you can resist.

A commitment to Christ leaves no room for dishonesty in your job. If you profess that Christ is your Lord and Savior, but demonstrate that gambling at the cock fights is your source of income, then you reject the provisions and blessings of God. If you teach a Sunday School class and then get drunk on Monday, you are a fraud. The temptation to separate your secular and spiritual lives is Satan's invitation for you to sin. I view my secular views and activities through Biblical guidance. I must not separate them. I must view all aspects of my life through the magnifying glass of my faith in God, and his instructions to me.

How are you handling this issue? The Bible tells us to be separate from the world to avoid yielding to the world's temptations. But it also tells us to be salt and light, and to share Christ with the unsaved. It is a fine line that you must walk to live a Godly life and avoid adopting the world's view, while still carrying out the command to share Christ with the unsaved. It might feel like walking with one foot in heaven and one foot in hell. Instead of trying to keep your spiritual and secular mind and thoughts separate, look at every aspect of your non-spiritual lifestyle, work, recreation and friendships, in the light of God's Word. God, through his Holy Spirit, wants to give you the strength to live in the world without becoming like the world.

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