

“Holy shall you be, because, I, am Holy”

(When to Shun a Brother in Christ)

(When quoting scriptures, from the Rotherham Emphasized Bible New Testament, I will substitute the Hebrew word Yahshua for Jesus, Yahweh and Elohim for God and the LORD and Anointed for Christ.)

The word, ‘shun,’ means to avoid deliberately; as a practice, to keep clear of. Our Father has given Christians a specific instruction, to avoid Christian brothers or sisters who choose to live in a lifestyle apart from holiness. In this New Age of so-called, ‘Love,’ that we presently live in, this commandment of our Father is generally not taught to the Christian Church.¹ Many teach, in the present day Church, an unconditional love, which says I will never avoid you. This contradicts our Father’s instructions. What are we commanded to do when a Christian brother is cohabiting with a woman who is not his wife? What am I supposed to do when my father, who is a Christian, is a drunkard or my sister refuses to work even though she has the ability to work?² We are commanded not to, ‘sunanamignumi’³ with them.

Sunanamignumi is the Greek word our Father uses to describe what we are not to do under such circumstances. Sunanamignumi means: 1) to mix up together 2) to keep company with, be intimate with one. Can it be that Yahweh has commanded us not to be intimate with our earthly parents, our earthly brothers and sisters or our grown children if they are living a sinful lifestyle? Yes! As Christians we have an earthly or fleshly family and a heavenly or spiritual family. Yahshua was teaching those who wanted the Word of Yahweh when his mother, brothers and sisters arrived and wanted to speak to him. He was told your, “... mother and brethren, are standing without, seeking to speak with you.” He corrected this statement by saying, “Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And having stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, he said, ‘Lo, my mother and my brethren! for whoever may do the will of my Father [walking in holiness] who is in the heavens, he is my brother, and sister, and mother” (Mt. 12:47-50). Also Yahshua told his disciples, “He that loveth father or mother above me, is not, worthy, of me,—and, he that loveth son or daughter above me, is not, worthy, of me” (Mt. 10:37). We must choose between our heavenly family and our earthly family, if they are walking in darkness. As the Israelites were commanded to choose between serving Yahweh or Baal so also we have been commanded to choose between obeying the Word of Yahweh or obeying our feelings.

The Levites chose to obey Yahweh. Why were the Levites chosen to serve Yahweh at His altar rather than one of the other tribes?⁴ When Moses came down from mount Sinai with

¹ Mennonites and Amish are the exceptions.

² 2Th 3:10 For, even when we were with you, this, were we giving in charge unto you,—that, if any will not work, neither let him eat!

³ 4874 συναναμιγνυμι sunanamignumi soon-an-am-ig'-noo-mee

⁴ Nu. 8:5-19

the two tables of the testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of Elohim, he saw the people given over to idolatry. They "...offered ascending-sacrifices, and brought near peace-offerings,—and the people sat down, to eat and to drink, and then rose up—to make sport" (Ex. 32:6)! Moses said, "...who is for Yahweh? To me! Then gathered unto him all the sons of Levi. And he said to them—Thus, saith Yahweh, Elohim of Israel, Put ye every man his sword upon his thigh,—pass through and return, from gate to gate, in the camp, and slay ye every man his brother, and every man his friend, and every man his neighbour. So the sons of Levi did, according to the word of Moses,—and there fell, from among the people, on that day, about three thousand men" (Ex. 32:26-28). The Levites chose Yahweh over their brothers, friends and neighbors who had chosen the way of sin. Upon the end of Moses ministry he blessed the tribe of Levi by saying to them, "Who saith, of his father and of his mother, I behold them not, And, his own brethren, regardeth he not, And, his own sons, observeth he not,—Because they watch thy speech, That, thy covenant, they may preserve" (De. 33:9). The Levites proved themselves to Yahweh by their deeds of obedience. Their fidelity to Yahweh earned them the right to be the teachers of the law of Yahweh to Israel.⁵ When it came time to chose between Yahweh or their family members, who had chosen sin, they chose Yahweh, even to the point of putting a family member to death.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "I wrote unto you in my letter—not to be mixing yourselves up with [sunanamignumi] fornicators; — Not at all, *meaning* the fornicators of this world, or the covetous and extortioners, or idolaters,—else had ye been obliged, in that case, to go out of the world! But, now, I have written unto you not to be mixing yourselves up [sunanamignumi],—if anyone named a brother, be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner, with such a one as this, not so much, as to be eating together, For what have I to do to be judging them who are without? Do, ye, not judge, them who are within, Whereas, them who are without, Yahweh, judgeth? Remove ye the wicked man from among, yourselves" (1 Cor. 5:9-13). He wrote to the Thessalonians, "And, if anyone be not giving ear unto our word through means of this letter, on this one, set a mark—not to be mixing yourselves up [sunanamignumi] with him,—that he may be reprov'd; And, not as an enemy, be esteeming him, but be admonishing him, as a brother" (2 Thes. 3:14-15).⁶ A man is a fornicator if he chooses to cohabit with a woman who is not his wife. I am then commanded, by the Word of Yahweh, that I must not eat with this person but to remove such a one from my family. I am not to treat him as an enemy but to admonish him as a brother to return to Yahweh. Until he returns unto Yahweh, I am to avoid him. Yahweh illustrated this concept with Miriam, the prophetess, Moses sister. She and Aaron sinned against Yahweh by speaking against Moses, which resulted in Yahweh saying, "If, her own father, had, but spat, in her

⁵ De. 33:10,

⁶ Rm. 16:17-18 But I beseech you, brethren, to keep an eye upon them who are causing divisions and occasions of stumbling, aside from the teaching which, ye, have learned,—and be turning away from them; For, they who are such, unto our Lord Christ are not doing service, but unto their own belly,—and, through their smooth and flattering speech, deceive the hearts of the innocent.

face, would she not have acknowledged the shame for seven days? Let her shut herself up for seven days, outside the camp, and, afterwards, let her be received” (Nu. 12:1-17).

By fellowshiping with a brother or sister in Christ who is a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner, we have become conformed to this dark age, which we have been commanded not to do; “And be not configuring yourselves unto this age, but be transforming yourselves by the renewing of your mind, to the end ye may be proving what is the thing willed by Yahweh—the good and acceptable and perfect” (Rm. 12:2). What has been willed by Yahweh is, that we avoid these people in order that they will be reprovved and return to Yahweh. This includes all of our family members who have turned back to the darkness of this age, even though they might be going to Church each Sunday.

The book of Ephesians also instructs us on how to deal with individuals who are living in darkness; “But, fornication, and all impurity, or covetousness, let it not be named among you—even as becometh saints [holy ones]...because of these things, is coming the anger of Yahweh upon the sons of obstinacy... Do not, then, become co-partners with them; For ye were, at one time, darkness, but, now, are ye light in the Lord,—as children of light, be walking... And be not joining in fellowship in the unfruitful works of darkness, but, rather, be even administering reproof; For, of the secret things which are brought to pass by them, it is, shameful, even to speak! All things, however, when reprovved by the light, become manifest, for, all that of itself maketh manifest, is, light” (Eph. 5:3-13). Light reprovves the unfruitful works of darkness in love.

Pastors should not be allowing unrepentant fornicators etc. into their Churches but should be reprovving them as Timothy was instructed; “Those sinning, reprove before all, that the others also may have fear” (1 Ti. 5:20). Today pastors are silent on this matter, which is disobedience to our Father’s Word. On the contrary, they allow publicly known figures who endorse homosexually, partial birth abortions or who are fornicators, into their Churches each Sunday.⁷ These Churches have conformed to this age! If a pastor knows that a person is living in sin he is instructed “...go and show him his fault between thee and him alone, if he may hear thee, thou didst gain thy brother; and if he may not hear, take with thee yet one or two, that by the mouth of two witnesses or three every word may stand. ‘And if he may not hear them, say *it* to the assembly, and if also the assembly he may not hear, let him be to thee as the heathen man and the tax-gatherer [avoid them]” (Mt. 18:15-17).

⁷ **President Bill Clinton** (Although a Southern Baptist, many in the SBC take issue with Pres. Clinton on a variety of matters. Resolutions calling for his home church in Little Rock to initiate formal church discipline against him were ruled out of order.), **Senator Ted Kennedy** (A statement that Senator Edward M. Kennedy had his second marriage blessed by the Roman Catholic Church after a 1982 divorce has revealed wide confusion among both Catholics and non-Catholics about the church's policy on annulments.), **Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius** (Kathleen Sebelius was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. She attended Trinity Washington University, a Roman Catholic university)etc.

Part of the covenant of becoming a Christian is stated in 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; “For, the love of the Christ, constraineth us; Having judged this,—that, one, in behalf of all, died, hence, they all, died; and, in behalf of all, died he,—in order that, they who live, no longer for themselves, should live, but for him who, in their behalf, died and rose again.”⁸ We are now part of a heavenly family that is holy. The Greek word translated, ‘holy,’ is the Greek word, ‘hagios,’⁹ which means physically, pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially, consecrated. Hagios is also translated saint as illustrated in Romans 1:7. As saints or holy ones, we are to separate ourselves from the works of the flesh.¹⁰

Yahweh “...hath blessed us with every spiritual blessing, in the heavenlies, in Christ, according as he made choice of us, in him, before the founding of a world, that we might be holy and blameless in his presence; in love” (Eph. 1:3-4).¹¹ Yahweh commanded Israel, “Therefore shall ye be unto me, holy persons, for, holy, am, I—Yahweh,—Therefore have I distinguished you from the peoples, that ye may be mine” (Lev. 20:26). We have been commanded, “Be not loving the world, nor yet the things that are in the world: if anyone be loving the world, the love of the Father is not in him. Because, all that is in the world—the coveting of the flesh, the coveting of the eyes, and the vain grandeur of life—is not of the Father, but is, of the world; And, the world, passeth away, and the coveting, but, he that doeth the will of Yahweh, endureth unto times age—abiding” (1 Jn. 2:15-17). We have been instructed “as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves to the former desires in your ignorance, but according as He who did call you is holy, ye also, become holy in all behavior, because it hath been written, ‘Become ye holy, because I am holy’” (1 Pe. 1:14-16); “I beseech you therefore, brethren, through the compassions of Yahweh, to present your bodies a living, holy sacrifice, unto Yahweh acceptable,—your rational divine service” (Rm. 12:1).

A Christian brother who has fornicated or became drunk but has repented of his ways is forgiven and his fellowship has been restored with Yahweh, this includes us.¹² We will all sin in our minds or in our flesh but the difference is whether we will attempt to obey Yahweh by destroying our sinful flesh and repenting, or rather take pleasure in our sinful flesh, thereby rebelling against Yahweh. The believer or brother who knows our Father’s Word is without excuse when he sins. While an unbeliever who doesn’t know the scriptures is treated differently, according to the scriptures.

We are to approach the unbeliever who is a fornicator, drunkard etc. as Christ did and offer him the bread of life; “And it cometh to pass, that he is reclining in his house, and many tax—collectors and sinners were reclining with Yahshua and his disciples; for there were

⁸ Or know ye not that, your body, is, a shrine of the holy spirit that is within you, which ye have from Yahweh? And ye are not your own; — For ye have been bought with a price! Therefore glorify Yahweh in your body. 1 Cor. 6:19-20

⁹ 40 ἅγιος hagios *hag’-ee-os* (Be ye holy for I am holy’ is quoted from the OT {#1Pe 1:16 Le 19:1 Le 20:7, etc.}

¹⁰ 2 Cor. 6:14-18

¹¹ Col 1:22 In his body of flesh, through means of his death, to present you holy and blameless and unaccusable before him

¹² If we are confessing our sins, faithful, is he and, righteous—that he should forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 Jn. 1:9

many, and they began following him. And the Scribes and Pharisees, seeing that he was eating with the sinners and the tax-collectors, began saying unto his disciples—With the tax-collectors and sinners, is he eating? And, hearing it, Yahshua saith unto them—No need, have the strong of a physician, but they who are sick, I came not to call the righteous, but sinners” (Mk. 2:15-17). Christ ate with Hebrew¹³ sinners in order that he could direct them back to Yahweh. If they refused the Word of Yahweh then Christ told his disciples “...as ye go forth outside that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet: Verily, I say unto you,—More tolerable, will it be, for the land of Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for, that, city” (Mt. 10:14-15)!

We have been called to be holy, thereby removing ourselves from the coveting of the world. When we sin we confess our sins and he is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 Jn. 1:9). Our bodies are the naos¹⁴ (shrine) of the holy spirit, whereby Yahweh, who is holy, dwells in us.¹⁵ If we fellowship with friends or family members who are drunkards, fornicators etc. then we, who are the Body of the Christ, have joined ourselves with a harlot, thereby desecrating the shrine of Yahweh; “Know ye not that, your bodies, are, members of Christ? Shall I, then, take away the members of the Christ and make them members of a harlot” (1 Cor. 6:15)? If a father, mother, brother or sister in Christ will not repent of their unrighteous ways, then we are not to eat with them, in order that they may be reprov'd. Yahweh honors and rewards individuals who obey His voice, even if it means standing alone. Our true fathers and mothers and brothers and sisters are those who hear the Word of Yahweh and do it!¹⁶ If you have to shun a friend or a family member, remember to keep the light on as the father did in the parable of the prodigal son. The son, who had devoured his inheritance on harlots and riotous living, said “I will arise, and go unto my father, and will say unto him—Father! I have sinned against heaven, and before thee...Now, while yet he was holding afar off, his father saw him, and was moved with compassion, and, running, fell upon his neck, and tenderly kissed him. And the son said unto him—Father! I have sinned against heaven, and before thee: No longer, am I worthy to be called a son of thine,— But the father said unto his servants—Quick! bring forth a robe—the best! and put on him, and get out a ring for his hand, and sandals for his feet. And be bringing the fatted calf, sacrifice! and let us eat and make merry: Because, this my son, was, dead, and hath come to life again, was lost, and is found. And they began to be making merry. (Lk. 15:11-24).

¹³ Mt 15:24 But, he, answering, said, I was not sent forth, save unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

¹⁴ 3485 ναός naos *nah-os'* 1) used of the temple at Jerusalem, but only of the sacred edifice (or sanctuary) itself, consisting of the Holy place and the Holy of Holies

¹⁵ Or know ye not that, your body, is, a shrine of the holy spirit that is within you, which ye have from God? And ye are not your own; 1 Cor. 6:19; In whom, ye also, are being builded together, into a habitation of Yahweh in spirit. Eph. 2:22

¹⁶ Lu 8:21 But, he, answering, said unto them—My mother and my brethren, are, these—they who, the word of Yahweh, are hearing and doing.