

Isolation or Insulation
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1 Corinthians 5:9-11: *I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.* **Isolation or Insulation**

Our Father, in Jesus' Name, tonight help us to get a hold of what you are saying about this subject. In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and for His Sake, Amen.

This message is for everybody. It is for young and old, male or female. It is for everybody. There is no practical application for one segment of the congregation. Every human being is held to this earth by the law of gravity. There is only one way to get off. You know what that way is, do you not? That is the way of the undertaker. You cannot say, "Stop this world, and let me off. I do not like this world. Let me get off." We are on this planet living with some five billion people. Most of them do not have an interest in living for God. Satan is the god of this world, yet we are in this world. Turn to 2 Corinthians 6. I have a long platform before I get to my message. Separation from the ungodly is a Biblical teaching, and that is taught from the first book of the Bible to the last book. I want to read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18: *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? (Do not marry with unsaved. Do not get into relationships where you are yoked together.) And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

In the Roman Empire in early days, monasteries were built as a protest against the licentiousness of the age. In the long run, it became more wicked on the inside of the monasteries than it was on the outside. They were trying to isolate themselves from the world. God never intended that. The Pharisees were strict separationists. That is where the word comes from. You see the iniquity on the inside of the cup on the heart in Matthew 23. The Lord reveals what was on the inside. They would walk on the other side of the street. They would not let somebody's shadow fall upon them. They would turn up their nose. I would get contaminated if I walked across the same side of the street. They would not go through Samaria because they would get defiled. That was Phariseism — necessary separation but carried it too far. At the church of Corinth, there was a problem of wickedness. The danger of compromise was more deadly than the association with world. Look at 1 Corinthians 5:9. Those who call themselves *Christians* will give you more trouble than the world. I am not being critical. I am not mad at Christians. That is just a fact. Read it very carefully. 1 Corinthians 5:9-10: *I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.* He said, "You rub shoulders with all walks of life — the grocery store, the doctor's office, the school system, down at the court house, the streets and intersections, and wherever you go. You cannot do that." He said, "I am not talking about the world." You would have to get out of the world. He is talking about anybody who would be called a brother. Did you know that your greatest problem in living a Christian life are those who call themselves Christians? The problem of compromise is a greater danger than the danger that the world imposes upon us. Did you get that? Christians, those who bear the name of Christ, cause you greater problems than the world. I have had bootleggers and moonshiners as my friends. They knew I did not call on them. My wife was safer in the mountains of North Georgia Chattanooga Valley among ungodly lumber men. You had better not bother my wife or my family, or they would come after you. They were safe. I had those

moonshiners. I preached against their whisky and their alcohol and their ungodly living, but I had those great big men pick me up and hug me and say, "Preacher, I love you." They could have broken every bone in my body. They hugged me and set me down. I had one that came into my yard (I was having some church problems.) and told me, "If you give me the names of those in your church that are giving you problems, I would like to visit them." I will tell you that Amos would have done that too. I said, "Now, Amos, you are on the Devil's side. I do not need your help." He said, "I know, but you can build a church up on my property. I'll sit up there with a shot gun, and nobody will bother you." I mean the world. We do not think the Bible teaches separation against Christians, but it does. I just read it. Now, that is not my message. That is part of the platform to get to where I am going. We live in a wicked world. Turn to John 17:11. God wants us in the world. The Lord knows we are in the world. He is concerned that we are in the world. We are in a place of danger, a place of defilement, a place of discouragement, and a place of pressure. John 17:11: *And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world,* (They are down there in the place of pressure, problems, and perplexities.) *and I come to thee.* (I am coming home.) *Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.* Look at verse 15: *I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world,* (If it is so dangerous with so many problems, why not take them home? Do not take them out of the world. The world needs them.) *but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.* (He keeps them from the evil. That does not mean from problems, defeat, and discouragements. All of that does not mean the evil one. Nothing that can happen to the child of God can ever be called evil according to the Scriptures. Nothing!) . . . *keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.* (What are you going to do about it? He said, "I want you to keep them, and I want you to separate them." The way you do it is through the Word of God.) *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.* How are we to get in the world and be insulated and not isolated? Do not take them out of the world. The world needs them. You say, "Boy, I would like to have a job where nobody works there other than Christians." You would have more problems than you would ever think you would have. "I would just like to build a nest way out in the west and let the rest of the world go by." You would be there. You have got a problem. The means of the matter of separation is the Word of God. So many are wishing to live for God. "I could live for God if the circumstances were better, if only." I read a statement by Charles Spurgeon. He is not God. He is not the Holy Spirit, but he made a profound statement. He said, "If any other circumstance would have been better for you than you are in now, God would have put you there." Now, that is sovereignty. Spurgeon said that. We are wishing, "If circumstances were only better, I could live for You." I suppose the circumstance for living for God are worse in communist China than any other place on the face of this earth, yet communist China has fifty million radiant Christians. They have produced more radiant Christians and New Testament Christianity than any other place on the face of the globe. It has not come from the United States of America but from the difficult place of communist China! "Well, I cannot live for God here." I said this morning that light can shine anywhere. God intended us to live for Him wherever we are. That is His plan. That is His purpose. "Well, my husband will not help me with my son. I can not raise a boy by myself." Eunice did a pretty good job with Timothy. Am I right? His father was a Greek, and all that the Bible said about his daddy was that he was a Greek. His grandmother got in the scene, and here two godly women turned out a godly boy. Joseph lived for God down in Egypt. It was not easy down there. Jabez — my what a statement! Jabez and Jephthah were sons of a harlot. Jabez is in the role call of faith in Hebrews 11. "If only . . . If only . . . If only . . . If only . . ." You need to quit that. Some folks are locked into circumstances that cannot be changed. You can try and pray. There are a lot of folks who would like to have their children in a Christian school, but they cannot afford it. Anybody want to say, "Amen"? They cannot afford it. Well, what happens to their children? The public school system. They cannot finance it. The public school system with its compulsory curriculum by the state and compulsory finances by taxes — "I would like to just put my boys in a Christian school, but it is absolutely impossible." You can write those kids off. They cannot live for God. Is that right? Turn to Daniel. I want to spend the rest of my time with Daniel. Classic illustration of insulation and not isolation is in the life of a teenager, four teenagers. I read in Daniel 1. Daniel goes off to a military academy down in Babylon. He does not go because his parents sent him down there. He went down there because of the fact that he was carried down there captured by the Babylonians. I begin reading in Daniel 1:1-2: *In the third year of the*

reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god. The effort of the world is to get the young people away from their parents. Sever them from their influence, and you take young people and change the world. Humanism knows that. It has changed the course of American history. Get them out. That was the fulfillment of the prophecy God said to Hezekiah. Isaiah 39:7: *And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.* They are taking down the land of idolatry — land from which God called Abraham. Get out of Babylon. Get out of that land, an idolatrous land. Abraham's dad was an idolater, and probably Abraham himself was an idolater. Get out of that land. God allows these young people to be carried to a land of idolatry. The Babylonians were idolaters, but they were also very cruel people. Look at Daniel 1:6, the selected view. He only gives the name of these four, probably because these are the four that are singled out that are going to live for God, and God is interested in your knowing how they made it down in Babylon. I want you to get how they made it. Look at verse 6: *Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:* Look at 1 Corinthians 10:13: *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.* Now let's look at Daniel 1:3. Look at these few, and look at what kind of young people they were. Daniel 1:3: *And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;* They were from well-to-do families. They were of royal blood. They came from kings and princes. They were used to the palace, the king's seed. Look at something else in verse 4: *Children in whom was no blemish,* (That is physical fitness. They had no warts. They had no moles. They had no blemishes. I doubt if they had any freckles. I do not know if Jews had freckles or not. They had no blemishes. They were perfect, physical specimens before the king. Nobody walked with a limp. Nobody had a broken arm, broken leg, scars, or a humped back. They were physical specimens. They were royal seed. Not only that, they were . . .) *favoured,* (Good looking — there was not an ugly one in the crowd. They were not independent Baptist. Physically, they were very well favored.) *and skilful in all wisdom,* (These kids were sharpies. They were not dumb bunnies. They were not dropouts. They were not goof-offs. These were alert young men, mentally alert and cunning. They were not only mentally alert, but also they had the zeal to apply their wisdom to everyday life. I read on a little further.) *and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science,* (These were young men with scientific minds and minds to explore.) *and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace,* (Though they were physical specimens, they knew how to behave in the king's house. They had social graces. They knew how to say, "Thank you" and whether to use their fork, their spoon, or their teeth. They knew all about that. They had social graces. They never embarrassed the king and his guests. These were number one young people in every aspect. Let us go a little further.) *had ability in them to stand in the king's palace and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.* They had one goal in mind — to cause them to eat like the Babylonians, dress like the Babylonians, and to make them Babylonian pagans. That was their goal. Listen carefully. How old were these boys? Arnold Gabaline thinks that Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were approximately fourteen years old. Sir Robert Anderson thinks that they were about twenty years old. Let us just knock off a few years and say they were between fourteen and seventeen years old. These were kids in Babylon. Would all of the fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, and seventeen year olds stand please tonight? All those who are fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, and seventeen, would you please stand tonight? I want you to look at each other. This is the age of that crowd that were carried into military captivity in military academy down at Babylon. They were your age. Now think. They were away from mom and daddy. They were away from the temple. They were away from the priesthood. They were away from the Scripture. They were where nobody would know what they would do. Nobody is going to take news back to mom and dad about this. They were down there, and they might as well live like the rest of the Babylonians. They could be very bitter, because dating was all over for them. They were made eunuchs. They would never know what it was to have a wife. They would never know what it was to date. They would never know what it was to have a family and have children and

grandchildren. They would never know that. Why? This king wanted somebody to give undivided attention to learn to be a Babylonian, and there was not to be any romance in this place down in Babylon. He took care of that. "God, why did you make us? Why did you allow this? I am never going to serve You again. I wanted a family. I wanted all that." You do not find any bitterness. You do not find any lashing out at God. You do not find any resentment whatsoever. Young people, let me tell you something. A relationship of a guy and a girl ought to be a stepping stone to service. Most dating is not a stepping stone but a stumbling block to service. Marriage ought to be a stepping stone to service for God. I have seen young people serving God and then forget all about God. This dating game is suppose to be a preparation for serving God. The dating game has ruined more young people than anything else in all the world. You need to understand that dating is important. Dating is a preparation for marriage. Who are you going to marry? Marry somebody that is interested in serving God. If you do not get interested in it before you get married, you are not going to get interested after. Down in Babylon, there was no dating life. God allowed that to happen to you. You say, "God, I am not going to serve You anymore. I am not going to serve You anymore." There is no bitterness, no resentment.

The methods employed to make them pagans are the same methods today. Look at Daniel 1:7: *Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.* He changed their names. Their names came from godly parents. When you called their names, their names were connected with Jehovah God. It reminded them of the true God, not a god. "We must do something about that. We do not want remembrance of the worship down in Jerusalem, the temple, the Shekinah glory, the deliverance of Jehovah. We do not want that, so we changed their names. When I call your name, I want to remind you of paganism. I want to remind you of the world. I want to remind you of idolatry." He changed their names from Biblical, Scriptural names to names connected with an item. Let us look at the names. Daniel means *God's prince*. He changed his name to Belteshazzar, *Bel's prince, big idol*. Hananiah means *mercy of Jehovah*. Shadrach means *command of a god* — "At your service, Sir." Mishael meaning *who is like God* was changed to Meshach meaning *who is like a god*. Azariah meaning *Jehovah, we will help* was changed to Abednego meaning *servant of Nego*. He changed their names to assimilate them with idolatry. "Down in Babylon, you are called these other names. Others say your name is the name of God Jehovah Israel. We do not want anything told about the Jehovah God, the God of Israel. All we want to hear is our pagan god." That is what the world does. They will not even mention the name of God out there.

Let us look at the process of association. Daniel 1:2: *And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.* The matter of association with the sacred vessel that they had seen in the temple were now seen constantly in a pagan's house. This is just another form of worship. "It is the same vessel but a different god and a different religion, but they are all the same." This is what you do with a brainwashing process. A person would be brainwashed unless they decided that they do not want to be brainwashed. There are folks who were carried captive during the war. Communist Russia put the records on, and they were played and played and played. We have telecasts from those who have been there. They renounced the United States and admitted to all sorts of things. What happened? They had been brainwashed. I know of a missionary. I have it on tape. They did everything in the world to him except when it came to the Word of God. They could not take the Word of God out of his mind. They had him sitting at a table admitting he was committing treason and admitting he was trying to overthrow the government, which was all a lie. They put a knife in front of him to take his life. He said, "There came blazing out on the walls in my mind a passage of Scripture, and it read this way: Psalms 31:15: *My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me.*" They said, "Take your life." He said, "I can't do that." He said, "My times are in thy hand." It came out of the well of the heart where he had stored the Word of God. Listen carefully. He said, "I had been in interrogation until my eyes could not see. I had been through eighteen or twenty-five hours of being constantly abused and interrogated, and the accusation of

confessing to anything and everything except the Word of God. They could not deal with the Word of God.” That man said, “Where is that?” He said, “That’s in the Bible.” They got his Bible, and he said, “Show me where that is.” He said, “I did not know where it was.” He said, “I had memorized a verse of Scripture. I did not know the chapter and verse. If I had known the chapter and verse, I would have had difficulty because of the fact of the blinding light. I lifted a prayer to God, ‘Oh God, help me today. Help me to turn to this.’” He prayed, and what did he do? He opened his Bible. (Now, I would not suggest you study your Bible this way. These were unusual circumstances.) It fell open at Psalm 31. Let me describe again. His neighbors had turned him in. They had all deserted him. They were accusing him of everything in the world. They were going to try to take away his life, and he opened the Bible. The guy said, “Where did you find that?” “Dear God, help me. I’m going to start reading wherever my eyes are focused.” This is where he started reading. Psalms 31:12: *I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel. For I have heard the slander of many: fear was on every side: while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life. But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God. My times are in thy hand:* He said, “When I read that, the man grabbed my Bible and ran out. I have never seen him since, but I believe I will see him in Glory. For five days, I did nothing but lead those communists to Jesus Christ.” It all came because of the fact that they could not handle the Word of God in that man’s heart. Only God could have allowed him to do that. The purpose was to prove to the person the Word of God in him. Let us go back to Daniel 1 and look at the process of association. They changed their names and polluted their persons. Daniel 1:5 and 8. Verse 5: *And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king’s meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.* Verse 8: *But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.* This is where they pollute their person, defilement. Daniel saw defilement because he knew the Book. If he had not known the Scriptures, the Jewish Scriptures, the Old Testament, he would have never seen defilement in that which was offered before him. Leviticus 11:44 and 47 gives a clear command to sanctify yourself and the meats offered to idols. Daniel saw moral defilement in the meats offered to idols. “I cannot violate my conscience. I cannot violate. I cannot sin against my God. I cannot sin against the clear teachings of my God.” Also, he saw in the meat unclean animals. He recognized the unclean beast or the ceremonial defilement. “I cannot eat that. I will defile myself ceremonially.” He saw social defilement in the king’s wine, his stimulates. He said, “I cannot eat that.” There is defilement many places, but we will never recognize it if we do not know the Book. If Daniel and the three Hebrew children had not listened, had not known the Scriptures, they would not have known anything about the defilement that was offered to them that polluted their persons. Whether they knew it or not, they would never have done what God did through them as he sought to pollute their person. The world wants to pollute your person, wants to defile you. God calls it defilement to pollute their person. The purpose of Daniel was that Daniel saw defilement and respected the Scriptures. The Scriptures were his authority, not his peers, not the king, not Ashpenaz, not anything else, but his allegiance to the Scriptures. You will never live a separated life unless this happens to be your authority. It is not a bunch of rules. It is the Scriptures, your authority. *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy Word is truth.* Young people, you want to live for God. You want to live a separated life. Psalms 119:11: *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.* If you do not respect the Scriptures above everybody else, you will compromise. This is the thing that makes it insulation instead of isolation. With isolation, you will break down, but insulation will allow you to go out into the world and not be defiled because you are insulated and not isolated. The Word of God, the Bible — what does it mean to you? Down at your house, is it your final authority? I had an officer of the church years ago. I said, “Brother, would you change your mind if I showed you in the Scripture that God said so?” He said, “No sir, I would not. I am too stubborn.” What was his problem? His problem was stubbornness. He was his authority. Do you really want to live in a world out there and not get contaminated or defiled? You will have to come back to the Book. You will have to know the Book. You will have to soak it in. You will have to search the Word of God in your heart, not school, not jobs. You go to a Christian school. Christian school does not mean you will live for God. Sometimes, in a Christian school, it is more difficult to live for God than anywhere else. Why? There is a lot more peer pressure at a Christian school than

at a lost school. The pressure is from Christians who do not want to live right. The pressure comes from those of our own. We do not want to live for God. What happens? The difference down in Babylon was one word: *Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.* A man, woman, boy, or girl — if he is to live a separated life, he has to have a purpose. That is a heart purpose, not an emotional purpose, but a purpose in life. “I will not defile myself.” That is something greater than, “I will not defile myself if I do not get any dates. I will not compromise.” You say, “I will be an old maid or an old man.” You may be better off without one. A man does not satisfy every desire of a woman, nor does a woman satisfy every desire of a man. Only God can satisfy your heart, nobody else. That may be the reason Wesley traveled eighty-five to ninety thousand miles on horse back. It may be why he traveled so much and was so widely known because he had a wife that constantly berated him. Maybe God allowed that to be fog that kept him away from home, that kept him out preaching the Gospel. I do not know. She would come out and stand up when he was preaching and say, “Hey, you ought to see him at home.” She was a scrooge and probably an embarrassment, but God might have used that to drive him to get the Gospel out. What if he had someone at home who was easy and so forth? He might not have done that. God takes things and uses them. He purposed in his heart. Do you have any purposes? Do you have any heart purposes that make any differences where you are? Young people, hear me. When I went overseas, I was twenty-one years old. I went to Europe, and nobody knew me. I was away from church. I was away from mom. I was away from brothers and sisters. I was overseas. Anything that is out there will be offered to you regardless of your age. You will take it unless you have a purpose of heart. “I will not defile myself. Well, I will lose friends. I will not defile myself. I will lose my promotion. I will not defile myself. I will lose the crowd’s approval. I will not defile myself.” The crowd is gone, and what happens? This man outlives three countries and three organizations -- Syria, Babylon, and one other, Persia. He outlived all of them because he would not defile himself. We used to have a whole lot better counsel from family doctors. The doctor that delivered me, Dr. Eugene Peek, Ocala, Florida, said my dad was his best friend; and they were good friends. He came to my house and told us we were going to lose my daddy. In a few hours, he was gone. He came to my house and picked me up personally, put me in his car, and took me to the hospital. He was a family doctor. We looked to him. I had joined the United States Army Air Core. My mother was concerned. My daddy was dead. My mother was concerned about her boy going off to the world and to all sorts of people he would be put in touch with. She said, “What about my boy?” This is some good advice. He said, “Well, Irene, if he is a bulldog when he goes in, he will be a bulldog when he comes out.” That satisfied my heart. If you have a purpose of heart, you will come out unscathed and untouched. You cannot make a purpose of heart in the midst of the temptation. You have to make a purpose in your heart before the temptation. This man purposed in his heart, and when the temptation came, he saw the temptation. When the temptation came, he had already made the decision. Have you made some decisions? Have you made some decisions about alcohol? Have you made some decisions about petting? Have you made some decisions about sex? Have you made some decisions about drugs? Have you made some decisions about honesty? Have you made some decisions about integrity? Have you made some decisions about your companions? If you have made those decisions, you have fought them. When you are under pressure and when the pressure comes, you have already made the decision, and it is not hard. You cannot make a decision when you are smooching and petting with a girl that you are not going to do this. You cannot make a decision about alcohol when you have a can in your hand. You make decisions about these things before they ever come, and when they come, you have already fought the battle. You have already resolved it before God, and it is done. That saves and solves a lot of problems. Awhile ago, when I was bearing down about dating, I was not mad. I have seen more young people, workers for the vineyard, mess up their lives with dating. Your life would be totally changed if you came to the house of God, not to hear her sweet voice or his, but to come to hear from God. I like to sit down front. I do not like anyone talking around me. When the preacher preaches, I get wrapped up in the sermon. I take notes. I am wrapped up in the man’s preaching. I do not see things going on. I am wrapped up. I am listening to what the man has to say. During a mighty revival moving of your spirit, you had your mind concentrated on the Word of God. Now, you have got your mind off of the Word of God and on something else. You are not hearing like you heard at camp. You are not hearing like you heard for a couple of weeks. You are not hearing. Why? You came to church for some other motive. Hearing the

Word of God is secondary. Come to hear the Word of God. I do not want anybody interfering with me. I want to sit where I can hear. It will make a difference. Do not bother me. When I am listening to a sermon, I do not want anybody bothering me. Do not pass me any notes. Do not bother me. I am listening. Maybe the answer to the problem I am having is in the preaching. Maybe the answer to a prayer that I am looking for is there. If I am not hearing with an ear to hear, I might miss it. I may say something you will not like. It would help the spirituality of you boys and girls if you did not sit together. You say that is extreme. I know it is extreme. These are days that demand extreme. I just asked you a test. Now, you just ask yourself, "Does my dating and association with the opposite sex make me love my Bible more? Does it make me more sensitive to the preaching of the Word of God? Does it bring my heart to burn like it did at camp to serve God? Or does it say, 'Hey, wait a minute. That is cooled down. I want this sleek sensitive consciousness of their presence'?" You sit with a consciousness of their presence. When you are sitting to hear from God, you want to be conscious of His presence. Now, you analyze that. I am not opposed to relationships. God made man and woman. He made them be attracted to each other. I repeat. If it is a stumbling block to serving God, that is not the right one for you. Does she make you want to read your Bible more? Does she make you want to listen more attentively? Does she make you want to put your feet on the floor and hear from God? Does he make you want to read the Bible? Does he make you want to be more pure? Does he make you want to listen? Does he challenge you to serve God? That is an asset test of what I am associated with. You had better be insulated.

Look at the music problem in Daniel 3. Nebuchadnezzar made a dedication to the image. He called the Babylonian Rock Quartet and the Babylonian Beetles. They brought them all out and had them play. The crowd went wild. It had them all on their faces. I read Daniel 3:5: *That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:* You read the fourth chapter of the book of Genesis where the instruments began with music back there on the wrong side of the fence. Music is always, and this is music connected with worship. Music is connected with idolatry. You say, "I cannot turn off this radio. I cannot change this station." You can if you would purpose in your heart that you will not defile yourself. It is just that simple. Rock music has contaminated our country. Parents have allowed their children to watch television, and most of the Saturday morning programs are laced with rock music. Kids are rocked into rock music. I do not know any sold-out Christians that listen to rock music. I do not know any. The music business that got them in the fiery furnace will get you in the fiery furnace. But, they did not burn.

Let us look at the peer pressure business. Turn to Daniel 6. They were no longer teenagers. One day, Daniel just kept getting higher and higher. Kings came, and empires came, but Daniel stayed. In Daniel 6, I read of three presidents that Darius set over the kingdom. Daniel was first. Verse 3: *Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him;* ("Man alive! We have got to do something." They set up a thing whereby they would fix him. "We will fix him by appealing to the king's pride.") *and the king thought to set him over the whole realm. Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.* By decree, you cannot pray for thirty days. They set him up. Daniel went to pray just like he always prayed. He got himself in a difficult situation, but it wound up that those folks who set him up wound up as the meal for the lions' mouths. Christian, hear me. 1 Samuel 2:30: *Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.* Daniel stood alone. A fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, or seventeen year old boy down in Babylon could have lost his life. He was away from home. Life ought to have been better. There he was, and he stood. You can do the same thing regardless of your age. Fight. He purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself. Most Christians live not in purpose of heart but in the emotion of the moment. "I do not know what I am going to do until it happens, and then I will tell you what I am going to do." Why? They have no purpose. *Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the kings meat.* I ask you again tonight, do you have

any purpose? I have some purposes. I preach, and I do not like to preach hard. I would rather preach hard and preach what I believe I ought to say. I can go home and put my head on the pillow and not feel, "Well, you coward." It is very difficult, folks, to preach hard to those that I love, and I love you. If you preach hard, they say that will not make you popular. If you are going to be popular, you will not have any purposes in your heart not to defile yourself. You will not be popular, but, I guarantee, you will be respected and known. How popular was he? Look at Daniel 10:11: *And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved.* God said, "I love you greatly." This was a man that was in the business world. This was not teenagers. This was a man in the business world. This was a woman that was building a house. This was old and young alike. If you are insulated, you can turn off that program. If you are insulated, you do not have to watch the soap. If you are insulated, you do not have to read that paper. If you are insulated, you do not have to listen to that conversation. If you are insulated, you do not have to do the drugs. If you are insulated, you do not have to drink the beer. If you are insulated, you do not have to commit immorality. If you are insulated . . . "But the crowd is doing that." Yes, I know that, but I am not doing it. Insulated — that is how God meant for us to live, not to separate ourselves but to go into the world and be insulated, not isolated. You rub shoulders with the unsaved. You try to witness to them. You try to lead them to the Lord Jesus Christ. You do not try to clean up their life. You try to be a witness in their life, but it does not get hold of you if you are insulated. Elisha was offered some money by Naaman the leper. When Naaman was healed, he tried to give some money to Elisha, but Elisha said no one had it. Well, the man left, and Gehazi, Elisha's servant, said, "Well, I will get some of it." He went down the road and said, "My master decided he wants some. He changed his mind." He came back. Elisha read his mail and said that the leprosy of Naaman would cleave to Gehazi and his house forever. What was the matter? Elisha was insulated. Gehazi was not. He was isolated, but when it came, he fell. If you are only isolated, and you come in touch with it, what happens? You lose your isolation, and you become a compromiser, and you fall. That is Christian living. The world will offer you everything in the world, young and old. I said something about the lotto. A man said, "Preacher, if you knew you would win a million dollars, would you buy it?" You say, "How do you know?" I said, "I have already done some of that." I had a lawyer drawing up a will, and that will would give me \$5,000. I had taken a lady of means there. She left \$45,000 to this church. He said, "I would like to give to this preacher." I said, "That man is going to think I brought her up here to get something from her." I said, "No sir, you just leave that to the church." I turned down \$5,000. That is pretty good tip money. All I had to do with that property across the street with the Costal was sign on the paper for a tax deduction of \$135,000. The man said, "Sign on the line." I said, "I cannot sign on the line. That place has got a beer license on the thing. I am the pastor of Calvary Baptist Church with a testimony in the city. I cannot sign it. I am sorry. You will have to give it to somebody else." I did not have any problem turning it down. I did not have any problem with the \$5,000, either. What happened? Brother, my testimony is the most important thing. If I lose my testimony, I am through. Your testimony ought to be more important than your business, more important than your dating, more important than your money, and more important than your possession. Your testimony is important. *Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.* The crowds would not go with him, but Jesus will. Before the flood, Enoch walked with God. All you heard about were men begetting children. Enoch was 365 years old. He walked with God. The Bible says he walked with God. You do not have to walk with the world. There is something sweeter than walking with the world. It is walking with Jesus. Now, that is reality. I am not talking about foolishness. There is something sweeter than marital relationship. That is the Lord Jesus. I am not mad at you. I have preached all my life like this. I want to tell you about this thing of insulation. The revival chain has not gone. Praise the Lord! If anything I said awhile ago came cross offensively to you, I apologize to you. I did not say it to be offensive. I say the same thing again because of the fact it is truth. Did you get any purposes in your heart out of revival? If you did not, young or old, you will slip back to where you were. It will not be long. I promised my wife that I would cleave to her and her only until death departure. I have had occasion overseas and in other cities to be untrue so easily. I twisted one woman's arm that had put her hands on me. I said, "Get your hands off me!" You had better have some resolution. You do not need to look around when you make resolutions and see who is going to go with you. I gave my life to the Lord. I do not know who came. I do not know if any one else came that morning. I know that I came, and I know what I did. I

know what happened, and I am here because of a purpose. I went to school. I stayed with a family from 1949 to 1956. I stayed in school for one purpose only. I purposed I was going to school. I was not going to quit until I was through. That kept me there. Every church I have taken, I have taken that church and said, "God, I am not leaving until you tell me it is time to go. I am staying. You brought me here. When You are through, You let me know. I am not going anywhere." I may get discouraged, but I am not going anywhere. *Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.* Would you purpose in your heart about things that are killing you? Some of you need to purpose in your heart about your relationships that are not good for you. They are not good for you. What do you do with them? You get away from them. You do not bother them. Why? You will wind up defiled, dead, and away from the Lord. Are you isolated? Parents, I want to tell you something. If all your children have is isolation, and they do not get the Word of God in their hearts as insulation, when you take away the isolation, they are gone.