

## Near In Blood; Separate In Spirit

“Every sinner is a fugitive and a vagabond. But if we love God we are still wanderers indeed, but we are ‘pilgrims and sojourners with Thee.’ – *MacLaren*

### Near In Blood

**Act 17:26** And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

### Separate In Spirit

#### Genesis 4:3-8

3And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

4And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

6And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

7If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee *shall be* his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

8And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

While a weapon of some type was the instrument of death it was Cain's heart that murdered his brother Abel. Today our society as a whole being void of morality seeks to defer the cause of violence from the heart to the weapon that is wielded by the hand. But the truth is; it is the heart that commits violence and murder; the weapon but the instrument.

**1John 3:12** Not as Cain, *who* was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. (*Near in Blood ; Separate in Spirit*)

**Columbine** (Eric Harris, Dylan Klebold)

Eric Harris journal entry: "I hate you people for leaving me out of so many fun things. And no don't ... say, 'Well that's your fault,' because it isn't, you people had my phone #, and I asked and all, but no. No no no don't let the weird-looking Eric KID come along."

Dylan Klebold journal entry: summing up his life at one point in his journal as "the most miserable existence in the history of time"

On April 20<sup>th</sup> with hate and hopelessness in their heart Eric and Dylan murdered 13 people and wounded more than 20 others. We blame guns but it is the heart that wields the weapon and the weapon only does the work of the heart.

**Jeremiah 17:9** The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

#### Matthew 15:18-20

18But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

19For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

20These are *the things* which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

Today we live is a society and culture that seeks to blame all our troubles and problems on anything and everything but ourselves. We take no personal responsibility for anything. We have a sin problem and deny it. Our problems lie

in the condition of our hearts and a willful separation from God. We seek our ways and not His. It is not the things around us that defile us; but it is our own hearts, attitudes, and a denial in our on responsibility for the problems in our lives.

**Romans 1:21** Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Vain = mat-ah-yo'-o From G3152; to render (passively become) foolish, that is, (morally) wicked or (specifically) idolatrous: - become vain.

### **2Timothy 3:1-4**

1This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

The Last Days are indeed Perilous Times characterized not by weapons but by the condition of the hearts, spirits, thoughts and actions of man; pride, unthankful, covetous, fierce (savage) to name a few. All are matter's of the heart. We are all one flesh and of one blood; yet separated by spirit.

**Proverbs 23:7** For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he.....

### **Change the Heart; Change the Person**

**Psalms 51:10** Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

### **Ezekiel 36:26-27**

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*.

The problems faced by the world are not weapons but the heart of man that in rebellion have moved far from God. We fail to look at ourselves and instead blame the problems of sin and separation from God on governments, society, culture, poverty, unemployment etc. The devil has divided God' people based on a perceived racial differences, but this is not so; there is one race whose feet tread this earth and it is the human race (*homo sapiens*). We are of one flesh and of one blood. It is the spirit that separates us. It is the spirit of belief and the spirit of unbelief that divides us. Those who deny God cannot hear His Words for they have not the spirit to hear - **John 8:43** *Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

The Spirit of Jesus, Jehovah unites, the spirit of the evil one separates and is a spirit of divide and conquer. But we must reach out to the lost those separated by spirit from fellowship; and share a Gospel of reconciliation and salvation for that is what will unite us and then the hand of man will seek no weapon to brandish but extend a hand of love and friendship and peace - **Proverbs 16:7** *When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.* It is but a dream this side of heaven; but worthy of all pursuit and a dream worth dreaming.

When we abide in the LORD and him in us then shall we know peace and be able to speak of it.

**John 15:5***I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abided in me, and I in him, the same Bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

“You are writing your biography upon the fleshly tables of your heart, my brother; and one day it will all be spread out before you, and you will be bid to read it, and to say what you think of it.”-*McLaren*