

STIRRED TO SET MYSELF APART ENTIRELY TO CHRIST

GFA Family Conference, August 29, 2023

INTRODUCTION

The Scripture calls God's people to be fully given to Him. We must not allow anything to blunt the force of the Bible's countless exhortations to set ourselves apart entirely to the Lord. We all stand in danger of harboring sin, of excusing ourselves with real or perceived theological tensions, or of fearfully avoiding accusations of backwardness or lack of relevance or respectability. God's precious and piercing expectation still rings out clearly: "with all your heart." No rivals. No divided loyalties. No halfhearted devotion. No satisfaction with anything less than full surrender to Christ Jesus. This session will examine various motivations to consecration. We will seek to see in the Bible different ways that God stirs us to set ourselves apart entirely to Christ.

Set yourself entirely apart to Christ:

1. BECAUSE _____ IS _____ (1 PETER 1:14–16, 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14–7:1)

- **1 Peter 1:14–16** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."¹
- **2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1** Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty. Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

*We serve a holy God and so strive for pure hearts
in making careful choices regarding worship, affiliations, and conduct.
— GFA's second core value, "Conservative"*

2. BECAUSE PERFECT HOLINESS IS YOUR _____ (1 JOHN 3:1–3)

1 John 3:1–3 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

3. BECAUSE YOU WILL STAND BEFORE THE _____ OF CHRIST (1 CORINTHIANS 3:11–15, 2 CORINTHIANS 5:9–10)

- **1 Corinthians 3:11–15** For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious

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stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

- **2 Corinthians 5:9–10** Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

4. **BECAUSE CHRIST IS YOUR _____ OF CONSECRATION (JOHN 4:34, 6:38, 10:36, 17:19)**

- **John 4:34** Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work."
- **John 6:38** For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.
- **John 10:36** ... whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world ...
- **John 17:19** For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

5. **BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT _____ (1 CORINTHIANS 6:19–20)**

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

6. **BECAUSE HE HAS DONE _____ FOR YOU (1 SAMUEL 12:24, JOSHUA 24:1–14, LUKE 7:36–50, ROMANS 12:1–2).**

- **1 Samuel 12:24** Only fear the LORD and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.
- **Joshua 24:14** Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.
- **Luke 7:47** "For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little."
- **Romans 12:1–2** Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

"An evil nature cleaves to me; so that when I would do good, evil is present with me. It is, however, a mercy to be made sensible of it, and in any measure humbled for it. Ere long it will be dropped in the grave; then all complaints shall cease. That thought gives relief. I shall not always live this poor dying life; I hope one day to be all ear, all heart, all tongue. When I shall see the Redeemer as He is, I shall be like Him. This will be a heaven indeed, to behold His glory without a veil, to rejoice in His love without a cloud, and to sing His praises without one jarring or wandering note, forever. In the meantime, may He enable us to serve Him with our best. O that every power, faculty, and talent, were devoted to Him! He deserves all we have, and ten thousand times more if we had it; for He has loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood. He gave Himself for us."

— John Newton