

# PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

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## DESTINATION SEPARATION

Both the world and worldly “Christians” need to get it through their heads that engaging in sin is a fruitless exercise (cf. **Rom. 6:21**). Messing around with sin is like messing around with an atomic bomb. What I want to impress upon you in this article is that sin is the great separator. Please note the information very carefully.

### SIN SEPARATES AN INDIVIDUAL FROM GOD

In **Isa. 59:1-2** we find these words: “Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.” The same lesson was impressed upon Timothy by the apostle Paul. To the young evangelist he wrote: “But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth” (**1 Tim. 5:6**).

### SIN SEPARATES ENTIRE CONGREGATIONS FROM GOD

John recorded the following words of Jesus: “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (**Rev. 3:19-20**). Now I realize this passage is very familiar to many. But have the masses ever stopped to consider that these words were addressed to a local church? Think about this: Jesus is outside the door of the church (yes, I know the church is not the building) asking to be let in. What caused the separation? Sin!

### SIN SEPARATES AN INDIVIDUAL FROM THE FAMILY OF GOD

When a “Christian” lives in sin, both local churches and individual Christians have the responsibility to separate themselves from the sinner. For instance, read the following words: “In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, to deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (**1 Cor. 5:4-5**). “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them” (**Rom. 16:17**). Can't you see that sin drives a wedge?

### SIN CAN SEPARATE AN INDIVIDUAL FROM HIS/HER JOB

Some people do not take passages like **Eph. 4:28** to heart and thus are fired from their jobs for stealing. Some do not seem to understand passages like **Heb. 13:4**. Thus they engage in sexual immorality with a co-worker. When the news gets around (as it always does) the guilty individuals lose their jobs. The sin of laziness has caused more than one person to get their “pink slip” (cf. **Rom. 12:11**). How many people have lost their jobs because of the sin of drunkenness (cf. **Eph. 5:18**)?

### SIN SO VERY OFTEN SEPARATES A MAN FROM HIS MONEY

Who can forget the prodigal son Jesus spoke of? He said “...A certain man had two sons: and the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me.’ And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want” (**Lk. 15:11-14**). He was not the only one to learn that a fool and his money are soon parted. Ask the drunk, the smoker, or the sniffer if sin does not cause money to disappear ever so quickly.

### SIN (IF KNOWN BY OTHERS) WILL SEPARATE A MAN FROM A GOOD NAME

In the long ago it was written: “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches...” (**Prv. 22:1**). How true is the statement! Yet, the open sinner either does not understand this, or more likely does not care because his heart has become hardened (cf. **Heb 3:13**). Live a life of open sin and watch your name go right down the tubes. When I say the name Ahab what comes to mind? How about Jezebel? How about Demas? How about Ananias and Sapphira? How about Diotrephes?

I could go on and on; e.g. sin separates a man from: good health, a good conscience, the avenue of prayer, his freedom, but most of all sin will separate an individual from heaven. Has sin driven a wedge in your life? If so, you need to repent or you will perish (**Lk. 13:3, 5**).