

Separation Anxiety

1. Luke 15:11-24 (NIV)

2. Separated from the Father

- A. Luke 15:13 – gathered all, left for a distant country
- B. Luke 15:15 – hired/joined himself to citizen, fed pigs
- C. This is our natural spiritual condition.
 - 1. Eph 2:1-3 – dead in sins, children of wrath

3. God has a solution: Grace

- A. Eph 2:4-5 – dead in sin, made us alive, by grace
- B. Rom 5:10 – enemies, reconciled by death, saved by life
 - 1. Death – Jesus paid it all
 - 2. Life – Jesus spent most of His time healing
- C. Our main problem is death, not debt
 - 1. 1Cor 6:9-10 – unrighteous will not inherit kingdom of God, do not be deceived
 - 2. 1Cor 6:11 – washed, sanctified, justified
 - a) Past because: washed, sanctified, justified

4. Justify – *dikaioō*, render/show/declare just

- A. Sin no more, not some more.
 - 1. John 5:14 – Stop sinning.
 - 2. John 8:11 – Leave your life of sin.
- B. Joint effort
 - 1. Son's part: Luke 15:20 – arose and went to his father.
 - a) He left the pigs behind
 - 2. Father's part: Luke 15:22 – put best robe on son
 - a) Replaced son's filthy rags
 - b) Zech 3:3-4 – take away filthy garments, removed iniquity
 - 3. Result: Luke 15:24 – son dead/alive, lost/found

5. Luke 15:17-18 – came to his senses, go back to father

- A. Wanted to separate from world and join his father again.
- B. We must want to separate from sin and join the Father.
 - 1. Some do not like the idea of separating from sin.
 - 2. Our greatest battle is against self.

6. How do we fight this battle?

- A. Give ourselves to God → give up all that separates us
 - 1. Evil actions/words/thoughts, money, reputation/honor, freedom from responsibility, pride, selfishness
 - 2. We cannot be half the Lord's and half the world's.
 - a) Did you give up ALL old boyfriends/girlfriends?
 - b) We must choose: God or sin.
- B. Luke 14:33 – does not forsake all → cannot be disciple
 - 1. What do we give up, when we give all? Sinful heart.
 - 2. God wants only the best for us.
 - a) Forsake only that which would bring suffering.
 - b) Perform only that which will lead to happiness.
 - c) Sin always leads to suffering and destruction.
 - d) True joy is to have Christ formed within.
- C. God wants to heal us, but we must submit completely.

7. How do I surrender myself to God?

Everything depends on the right action of the will.

- A. Cannot change heart, can choose to serve Him.
- B. Give God full control.
 - 1. Your affections will be centered upon Him.
 - 2. Your thoughts will be in harmony with Him.
- C. Lost while hoping to be Christians; must choose
- D. Joshua 24:15 – choose whom you will serve

8. How do we come back from the dead?

- A. Admit that we are dead in sin.
- B. Admit that God knows best.
- C. Choose to leave the pigs behind.
- D. Choose to let God wash, sanctify, and justify.