

BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS
CLEANSING OURSELVES AND PERFECTING HOLINESS
2 CORINTHIANS 7:1

Introduction

The first verse of chapter 7 is a proper conclusion to chapter 6.

Remember how that in Chapter 6 Paul exhorted the Corinthians to separation:

1. **We saw the nature of this separation:**
“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers” (6:14).
We talked about how this separation would no doubt cover such human ties as:
 - a. **marriage**
 - b. **certain business partnerships**
 - c. **unsound ecclesiastical organizations**
2. **We saw the logic of this separation:**
“What fellowship hath...” (6:14b-16)?
 - a. **righteousness with unrighteousness**
 - b. **light with darkness**
 - c. **Christ with Belial**
 - d. **believers with infidels (or unbelievers)**
 - e. **the temple of God with idols**
3. **We saw the rewards of this separation (6:16b -18).**
7:1 *“Having therefore these promises”* – Refers back to chapter 6:16b-18 where there are some promises for those who belong to God and some promises to those who walk a separated walk!
 - a. **The Promises Of Verse 16b For Those Who Belong To God Through Salvation.:**
 1. **We Are A Place Where God Has Chosen To Dwell!**
(1 Cor 3:16)
 2. **We Are A Place Where God Has Chosen To Walk!**
(Gal 2:20)

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3. **The One True God Of The Universe Is Our God!**

4. **We Are That One True God’s People!**

b. **The Promises Of Verse 17-18 For Those Who Are Separated In Their Walk:**

1. **“I Will Receive You!” (Vs 17b)**

The word “*receive*” there means “*to take into ones favor.*” There is a sense in which, tragically, many Christians are not “*received*” in this sense! What I’m saying is that because of disobedience they do not enjoy the close spiritual intimacy, the fellowship, which other children of God enjoy!

Just as the prosperity in everything which is promised in *Psalm 1:1-3* depends on one avoiding fellowship with the “*ungodly,*” the “*sinners*” and the “*scornful,*” so here the rich daily blessings offered depend upon living a life of separation—not yoking up with unbelievers!

A compromising, worldly Christian, although he or she is still a child of God, they don’t the child’s joy and fellowship which is offered and available!

2. **And will be a Father unto you...! (Vs 18)**

A “*Father*” here is speaking of “*Father*” in the sense of a special nearness and fellowship.

An **obedient child** in the Father’s favor **experiences the Father’s love through nearness and blessing!**

A **disobedient child** out of the Father’s favor **experiences the Father’s love through discipline, which is NOT one of this special nearness and blessing!**

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4. So, the first verse of chapter 7 is a proper conclusion to chapter 6!
What should be our response in light of these promises?
We should *"cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."*

Conclusion
So daily the Christian should be at work *"perfecting holiness,"* that is, seeking the face of the Father in all things!

Putting oneself continually in God's hands while separating **from** the things of this world and **unto** the things of God!

Remember when Jesus washed the disciples' feet in John 13?
Peter took offense that Jesus wanted to wash His feet!
Look at John 13:6-10.

Jesus was teaching here that although they were cleansed, (i.e. saved), yet because they walked in a dirty world, they needed to spiritually get cleansing daily from this same *"filthiness of the flesh and spirit."*

And remember how our Lord's model prayer, (the Lord's Prayer), teaches us to ask daily, *"Forgive us our debts"* (Matt. 6:12) or *"our sins"* (Luke 11:4).

So let's take this one step at a time:

- a. **"Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit,"** literally is, *"Let us continually or repeatedly cleanse ourselves."*
(See: Ephesians 4:22,25-31; 5:3-8; Galatians 5:16-17, 19-25)
- b. **"Perfecting holiness in the fear of the God."**
Holiness means that we are to be set apart for God for His particular purpose! Such *holiness* is a relative matter.

In our standing, all of those who are saved are *sanctified*, that is, they are cleansed by the blood of Christ and set apart for God and Heaven! *Hebrews 10:14—"For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified"*

In our present state, we still live in this fallen flesh in a fallen world, but those who attend much to the Word of God become more nearly sanctified or set apart in their daily lives!