

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

2 CORINTHIANS 6:16B-7:1

God promises you a relationship. You are his son or daughter. He wants to walk with you and live with you. That is his promise. That promise of God's relationship, displayed in 2 Corinthians 6, is based on the Christians' pursuit of holiness or separate living. Paul specifically is encouraging the Corinthians to be separate from the ways of the world. The world they come from has people who are searching for their hearts to be filled. Their search has led them to pagan worship, child sacrifice, sexual immorality, and many other sins that deviate from God's wholeness. God's promise, however, leads to a relationship of completeness when we pursue him over the world.

Our pursuit of God must be more important than our pursuit of this world. "Paul's exhortation to be separate stops short of exhorting them to become recluses. What Paul apparently had in mind was the breaking of 'spiritual ties' with the Gentile world. Until that was accomplished, God's promises remained stifled. The tie with the world had to be broken so that the temple of God would be pure." God promises to be our Father, to live with us, and walk among us. This is only possible when we pursue God over our pursuit of this world. Holiness is cultivated in our relationship with God. We pursue God over the world because of our deep desire for wholeness and our reverence for God.

"God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him" (1 John 4:16). Abiding with God is where our relationship begins. Abiding with God is where we separate ourselves from the world. Abiding with God is where holiness begins. Set aside some time today to abide with God. Sit in his presence. Soak in his love. Claim your place as his son or daughter and walk with him.