

Covenant Evangelical Reformed Church in Singapore – 2010 June Camp
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WE ARE ONE: (3) THE IMPLIED ANTITHESIS

Introduction:

1. An important implication of what we have considered thus far is the Antithesis. See Eph. 4:17-24.
2. This is a significant, practical truth for us and the church. Especially because we live in evil times.

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- I. What is the Antithesis?
 - A. The first place in Scripture where the truth of the antithesis is set forth is Genesis 3:15.
 1. The antithesis is enmity between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent.
 2. God puts this enmity in place. He does that through:
 - a. The decree of predestination.
 - b. The work of Christ on the cross.
 - c. The Spirit's work of regeneration in the elect.
 - B. The antithesis is spiritual separation between the godly and ungodly, the church and world.
 1. The separation is not physical.
 - a. It is not world-flight. Evil is not in things. I Tim. 4:4.
 - b. Physical separation fails, for man always takes his sinful nature with him.
 2. The separation is spiritual.
 - a. It exists because God has made His people spiritually different from the ungodly.
 - b. Those who are one with Christ and fellow believers, are not one with the world.
 - II. The Antithesis is also a calling.
 - A. We are required to live an antithetical life. II Corinthians 6:14, 17. Ephesians 5:11. Revelation 18:4.
 - B. We must live a life of spiritual separation. This includes the following:
 1. We may not be friends with the ungodly. II Chronicles 19:2.
 2. We may not conform ourselves to the world. Romans 12:2.
 3. We must not love the world or the things in it. I John 2:15.
 - C. Our life on earth is not a game. We are in the front lines of a spiritual battle.
 - III. This has practical application in many areas of our lives.
 - A. We are to be different from the ungodly.
 1. In how we entertain ourselves. Note Psalm 101:3.
 2. In our use of technology.
 3. As regards the goals we have in life.
 - B. In connection with our theme, this especially applies to the following:
 1. Friendships – our oneness/unity determines whom we establish friendships with.
 2. Dating & Marriage – we may not be unequally yoked, but should date and marry in the Lord.
 - IV. All of this reinforces the calling to seek oneness/unity with those who are one with us in the truth – that is, one with us in Christ. This is the guarantee of the church's safety. Deut. 33:28.
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Discussion Questions:

1. How does the enmity between the two seeds show itself? How on the part of the world? How on our part?
2. What are some ways in which you personally feel and experience the hatred and opposition of the world?
3. How do we show that we are different/separate at work? In our families? At school? Anywhere else?
4. Is the world sometimes friendly toward us? If so, why is that the case?