

CORNERSTONE

DISCIPLESHIP

GROUPS

Set Apart
Pastor Jamie Burns
Message from Sunday, June 21, 2026

Key Scripture References

- Romans 12:2
- Colossians 3:1-3
- 1 Peter 2:9-10
- Exodus 8:20-24
- John 17:14-18

Key Takeaways

1. We Are Called to Be Different, Not Conform

God has set us apart from the world's patterns and systems. We are not to be molded by culture but transformed by the renewal of our minds through His Word.

2. Being Set Apart Comes with Blessings and Benefits

Just as God made a distinction between the Israelites and Egyptians during the plagues, He makes a distinction for us today. We have divine protection, provision, and promises.

3. Our Identity is Chosen and Treasured

Before the foundation of the world, God chose us as His treasured possession. We didn't earn it—it's a gift of His love and grace.

4. Renewing Your Mind is Simple, Not Complicated

We don't renew our minds through striving or legalism, but by believing God's Word over every other voice. The Holy Spirit does the work; we simply believe.

5. Communion Reminds Us We Are Set Apart

Taking communion regularly reinforces our identity as God's people and reminds us that Jesus' body was broken for our healing and His blood was shed for our forgiveness.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

- **What does it mean practically to "not conform to this world"?** Where do you see the church looking too much like the culture around it?
- **Pastor Jamie mentioned that being set apart means being "wonderful."** How does this change your perspective on what it means to be different from the world?
- **Read Exodus 8:22-23.** What does God's distinction between His people and the Egyptians teach us about His protection over our lives today?

Personal Reflection

- **Pastor Jamie asked: "Where does my life look like the world?"** Take a moment to reflect silently, then share (if comfortable) one area where you feel God is calling you to be more set apart.
- **What voices are you listening to besides God's Word?** (News, social media, cultural opinions, etc.) How might these be shaping your thoughts more than Scripture?
- **Romans 12:2 talks about the "renewal of your mind."** What practical steps can you take this week to fill your mind with "heavenly realities" rather than worldly distractions?

Going Deeper

- **Read 1 Peter 2:9-10.** You are called "God's chosen treasure" and "a people for His own possession." How does knowing this affect how you see yourself? How should it affect how you live?
- **The teaching emphasized that we don't earn God's favor—it's a free gift.** Why do we sometimes struggle to accept this? How does striving in our own effort rob us of rest?
- **Discuss the difference between the Old Covenant (based on obedience) and the New Covenant (based on Jesus' finished work).** How does this give you confidence in your standing with God?

Application

- **Pastor Jamie said, "Listen to what you're saying. What are you agreeing with?"**
This week, pay attention to your words. Are you speaking life and God's promises, or fear and the world's perspective?
- **How can taking communion regularly (even daily) help reinforce your identity as set apart?** Will you commit to taking communion more intentionally this week?
- **What is one specific area where you need to believe God's Word over circumstances?** (Healing, provision, peace, etc.) How can this group support you in standing on that promise?

Practical Application

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Daily Word Meditation

- Choose one promise from Scripture that speaks to an area where you need breakthrough
- Write it down and speak it aloud each morning and evening
- Replace negative thoughts with this truth throughout the day

Option 2: Communion Practice

- Take communion at home at least 3 times this week
- As you do, specifically "discern the Lord's body"—thank Him for His blood (forgiveness) AND His body (healing/wholeness)
- Declare that you are set apart and whole

Option 3: Media Fast

- Identify one worldly influence (news, social media, certain shows) that might be shaping your thinking more than God's Word
- Fast from it for one week and replace that time with worship, Scripture reading, or encouraging content
- Journal what you notice about your peace and perspective

Option 4: Declaration List

- Make a list of who God says you are (chosen, treasured, set apart, holy, beloved, etc.)
- Read this list aloud each morning before you start your day
- Notice how it affects your confidence and decisions

Prayer Requests & Closing

Group Prayer Focus:

- Renewed minds that think like heaven, not like the world
- Freedom from any area where we've been conforming to worldly patterns
- Faith to believe God's promises over circumstances
- Boldness to live as His set-apart people
- Specific needs mentioned during discussion (healing, provision, peace, etc.)

Pray specifically that each person would:

- Know deeply that they are God's treasured possession
- Experience the reality of being "drenched in His mercy" (1 Peter 2:10)
- Walk in the divine protection and blessings that come with being set apart

Closing Thought

"You are God's chosen treasure, priests who are kings, a spiritual nation, set apart as God's devoted ones. He called you out of darkness to experience his marvelous light, and now claims you as his very own." — 1 Peter 2:9 (TPT)

You didn't earn this. You can't lose this. Simply believe it and walk in it.

News & Events

Scan QR code for Upcoming Events, News, Giving and more! <https://linktr.ee/cornerstonejc>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- July 5 - Summer Discipleship Groups - New Term Begins
- July 19 - Summer Fun Night at Kingsport Aquatic Center - Registration Open

