

## EDITOR'S NOTES: IS SEPARATION BIBLICAL?

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As the only minister in the Portland area community choir I belong to, I get asked questions about religion a lot. Many of the other members are church people of varying sorts, and they are genuinely interested in what I do. Not long ago I was asked what I meant by "separatist" when I used that word to describe our denomination. As I explained the biblical teaching, further questions came out: why can we not join hands with other "Christian" churches when that has been the practice of American churches time out of mind? what is the standard of union? (One of the questioners is a Unitarian.) does that mean you won't recognize anyone else as being a Christian? what about the Roman Catholics?

Well, these questions reflect the general misunderstanding of the doctrine of separation that characterizes the ranks of the Christian church. We hope this issue will clear up some of those misunderstandings. This is a special issue for several reasons. First, biblical holiness (separation), both personal and ecclesiastical, is a seminal issue for Bible Presbyterians and ought to be revisited every once in awhile. Second, we've added a new department to the *Journal* concerned with sermons and sermon-making. It's called "Proclamation." Look for ideas on how to present the Bible's truths in an effective way. Third, this is the first issue to which nationally-known authors have contributed their work. We hope you'll let us know what you think! If you need extra copies to pass out to friends, just ask.