



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – March 23, 2008

Heart to Heart...

This is a reprint from an article I wrote three years ago. It will help us to make certain we keep on course, not tossed by every wind of doctrine or excitement people try to present.

There are probably not any who enjoy the Andy Griffith Show more than me. I make quotes of the silly sayings and jokes used on the show. It is a classic and good fun. Here is why I bring this up. Today, in the Lord's church, the Andy Griffith Show has been made into a series of Bible studies! It is more popular in the southern states and used by larger congregations for the most part to help increase their attendance and stir excitement. The Bible study series is called, "*The Andy Griffith Bible Study Series.*" This is not an article to blast someone and I am not into bashing others as that serves no purpose. What I try to do is keep our focus on where our focus should be and that is Christ and Him crucified!

Let's make some spiritual observations about such: (1) There is nothing wrong with using things as object lessons. The Lord certainly did that, but not in fleshly, man made ways. (2) What does God want? His word preached/taught (II Timothy 4:1-2). God's word is the only thing that can produce saving faith and make one adequate and equipped for every good work (II Timothy 3:16-17). When our Bible studies preach/teach Barney over the apostles, there is something wrong. The Andy Griffith Show never brought one person to knowing God (John 17:3)! The show never converted a single person. There is no one led to Christ, baptized into His death, or raised to walk in newness of life. There is no faith produced and deepening of trust in the Lord. This is a 'man-created' show purely for entertainment purposes. Yes, it has some moral lessons, but those moral values are not to be substituted for Christ and His word. God's word is reality, revealing deep truths and gives one direction amid a lost and mixed up world. His word teaches the best morals, more than any man can come up with. Jesus will always be honest with you. (3) God confronts man with their sinfulness, showing the need for a Savior. Andy never confronts sinfulness but shows tolerance and glosses over sin. From the beginning of creation to Revelation, one message was preached and it led sincere people to repentance. (4) One assembles with the saints to worship, drawing near to God through Jesus Christ. Mayberry never helped anyone worship, much less draw near to the Lord. Only through Christ can we draw near (Hebrews 4:14-16). Only through Christ can one offer acceptable, spiritual sacrifices (I Peter 2:4-5).

Listen carefully to what God says, "*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ear tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.*" (II Timothy 4:3-4) That says it all. Think about it!!!

Brent