



"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 – April 27, 2008

Heart to Heart...

The Lord hates sin, all sin. But He has an utter hatred and disdain for particular sins. He detests certain attitudes and practices among His people. There are 7 things listed that the Lord abhors in Proverbs 6:16-19. One of the things that are spoken against by our God is "*one who spreads strife among brothers.*" We need to look at this closely.

Strife can be easily caused or spread and we need to be careful. The Lord abhors one who spreads strife. Strife is when one causes people to divide. It is the result of self seeking, wanting to divide people because they feel hurt or taken advantage. Strife goes hand in hand with gossip. A person that causes strife talks behind others backs, trying to get people to hear their side of things, hoping that those hearing will side with them! Strife leads to hard feelings and never brings peace or unity of the Spirit.

Strife is a deed of the flesh spoken in Galatians 5:20. It will cost a person their soul. Strife comes from enmities. Enmity is a deed of the flesh. Enmity is hostility in the heart and mind of a person because they feel unjustly treated. One that has enmity has an underlying hostility sentiment that never was resolved in their heart. In other words, they are bitter and resentful. It boils down to one thing: they have an unforgiving spirit! What is worse, enmity blinds the mind so one cannot see their own sinfulness. That is what causes them to spread strife among the brethren. They feel justified to speak and act the way they do.

The sincere lovers of God are diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:3). The Spirit of God promotes and works for peace in the lives of His people and in His church. Who leads on into strife and enmity? It's not the Lord. If one cannot forgive, to let completely go of things they feel unjustly wronged in, the cross of our Lord is absent in their lives. An unforgiving spirit, a hurt or a wrong becomes a boiling point and it seethes in their heart. As opportunities present themselves, they let it be known with comments or actions how upset they are. The sad part is they are without life from God. They are miserable and empty, not recognizing their spiritual dilemma. Strife becomes full blown and the words start spreading as they share their discontent among others. They have now become an abomination in the eyes of the Lord and will end up losing their soul.

May we guard our hearts and mouths, allowing the death of Jesus to be our guide. "*The one who desires life, to love and see good days, must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile.*" (I Peter 3:10) Forgive, as Christ forgives you and enmities will not be a part of your life. Think about it!!!

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