



"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 – August 3, 2008**

## Heart to Heart...

An elderly man lay dying in his bed. In death's agony, he suddenly smelled the aroma of his favorite chocolate chip cookies wafting up the stairs. He gathered his remaining strength, and lifted himself from the bed. Leaning against the wall, he slowly made his way out of the bedroom, and with even greater effort forced himself down the stairs, gripping the railing with both hands. With labored breath, he leaned against the door frame, gazing into the kitchen. Were it not for death's agony, he would have thought himself already in heaven. There, spread out on newspapers on the kitchen table were literally hundreds of his favorite chocolate chip cookies. Was it heaven? Or was it one final act of heroic love from his devoted wife, seeing to it that he left this world a happy man? Mustering one great final effort, he threw himself toward the table, landing on his knees in a rumped posture. His parched lips parted; the wondrous taste of the cookie was already in his mouth; seemingly bringing him back to life. The aged and withered shaking hand made its way to a cookie at the edge of the table, when it was suddenly smacked with a spatula by his wife. "Stay out of those," she said, "they're for the funeral!!"

Some marriages are just about this cold and ungodly. I recently had shared with me a situation of a Christian couple where the wife thought she was having a heart attack. The husband was so unconcerned that he would not even offer to help by asking, "What do you want me to do?" Cold, hard hearted and calloused had become his nature. How do people become this way? They have left God! They have turned with all their hearts toward serving the devil and his desires. What is worse, they are unhappy, trapped in their own misery while blaming their mate for their misery not realizing sin has completely mastered them. Until they desire to turn to the Lord with their heart, there will be no relief and find no freedom. The heart will harden, the conscience will sear and blame will be placed on their mate or anyone else who gets in their way. Sin is a terrible taskmaster and it creates so many marital problems, personal problems and mental issues. The words of Jesus ring clearly, "*Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest.*" (Matt. 11:28) No rest from misery, game playing in the mind, depression and unhappiness until one comes to Jesus! And we have His word on it! Think about it!!!

Brent