



"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 – October 26, 2008

Heart to Heart...

There is no one who is aware more that my writing attempts sometimes are very lacking. I just do not communicate very well writing, but I still try. I am trying again! I want you, the brethren to understand the value of the Lord's church, His body and what His church means to Him. There is nothing that does greater harm than to hear people devalue the Lord's church by speaking ill of brethren to others. To speak ill of a fellow brother or sister is to speak ill of Christ. People claim their love for the Lord but have little to nothing to do with the body of the Lord. We must realize that one cannot have Christ without the church and one cannot have the church without Christ!

The church is God's master plan. It is not manmade or man maintained. That's what denominations are! We are not a denomination! Christ founded His church and His church is His body (Ephesians 1:22-23). He has a very intimate relationship with His body. How do you feel about your body? Christ feels the same and much for more His body, the church. Let's look a few things about Christ and His relationship to His body: (1) *Christ is the head of the church.* (Ephesians 5:22-23) That means one cannot have a loving relationship with the Lord, the head, without being attached to the body! The body and the head are part of one another. (2) *Christ is the foundation.* (I Corinthians 3:11) That means His body, His church in which He is the head, is solidly founded on the teachings of His word! (3) *Christ loves the church and gave Himself for it!* (Ephesians 5:25) Whatever you value, that is where your heart will be. Christ valued His body so much He gave His life for us. How much do you value the rest of the body? To think little or have little to do with Christ and His body reveals your value system. (5) *Christ purchased His church with His own blood.* (Acts 20:28) To think little of those tied to Jesus, the others in the body, speaks what you reveal about His love and understanding of His blood.

One cannot love the Lord and have little to do with His body. The church is not some social function or place of entertainment. It is those who have been brought into union with Christ through baptism. It is a spiritual house, built by Jesus, founded upon His word and we are to present ourselves back to God because we are attached to Him and one another. To show little concern and love for those in the body of Christ is to show little love and concern for God. (I John 4:20) What makes us want to be together? The death of Jesus. That's our common ground, our attachment. For those lost involved in sin and fleshly desires, that is their common ground and the Lord's body has little impact on them. Let me ask you, how do you feel about the church of our Lord? How do you feel about the Lord? Your attitude and desires toward others in Christ's body reveal the answer to these questions. Think about it!!!

Brent