



"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 – December 14, 2008

Heart to Heart...

People twist the Scriptures to satisfy their own thinking. One time I had a fellow share with me that not only was he married, but he had another woman on the side. He said it with an arrogant and haughty attitude. He proceeded to tell me that the Scriptures teach us that David was a man after God's own heart and he had other women! What a horrible conclusion, yet I must say, over the years I have heard many use God's holy word for their personal justification for what they want to believe and practice. What escaped the notice of this man is that David's sin cost him the death of a baby, his own personal counselors turned on him and the worst was his own son Absalom betrayed him. There are consequences to sin. Most people never realize the seriousness of the consequences of their sinful down the road. God does not smile at sin or condone it! David was a man after God's own heart. He was repentant and humbly followed but that did not alleviate the effect it had on others. I had a lady in Christ tell me that there are times one has to lie in order to protect the innocent, citing Abraham as her source. What does Scripture teach about lying? Others try to use Scripture to justify their drinking or becoming angry and lashing out at others. The list goes on and on. Sin bears consequences!

Peter, in speaking of the Scriptures that Paul wrote, says this about those who manipulate and twist the Scriptures: "...*which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness.*" (II Peter 3:16-17) When one distorts the Scriptures, they are doing it to their own personal destruction! It is one thing to be ignorant or not know how to apply the word. But it is sinful to knowingly protect something we practice in a sinful way and use the Scriptures to cover our practices. There will be eternal consequences for that.

I want to encourage us, be careful and be honest with Scriptures. God is trying to move us away from sinful things and practices and His word is to explain that to us. The Holy Scriptures gives us insight to learn how God thinks and His judgments. We have a Father who loves us deeply. Let's not abuse His grace by twisting His word. And above all, be careful of the things you go after and practice in your life. Let's "*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" (II Peter 3:18) Think about it!!!

Brent