



"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 – January 11, 2009

Heart to Heart...

What is our purpose on this earth? I know there are several answers to this, but the main purpose of our existence as the church of Christ has one major purpose: ***"This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth."*** (I Timothy 2:3-4) God's desire is to save people and people will not be saved without the truth. Religion never saved one soul! Only the truth, holding to the truth and walking in the truth will save. The truth is the **only** way to freedom (John 8:31-32). If we are the church of the living God, and according to the word of God we are, that means we are the pillar and support of the truth (I Timothy 3:15). If we are not going to uphold the truth, we will cease to be the church of the living God. It's that simple. The truth that set us free is the truth that needs to be taught to those outside.

What prevents us from reaching out to our family, neighbors and co-workers? Sometimes it is fear because we are not sure how they will respond. We need to realize that without the truth of the gospel, that family member, those friends and neighbors will be eternally doomed! The truth of the gospel tells us that those who are outside of Christ, who hold to false teaching, are lost. They will burn in the lake of fire and brimstone. They are appointed to an eternal fire, never to go out and an eternal worm gnawing on them (Mark 9:44-48). That should pierce us to want to reach them and push fear out of the picture.

Another thing that prevents us from reaching out is our selfishness. Selfishness can be a great obstacle to overcome. Parents train their children to be selfish by teaching them the church is here to serve them! Just listen to statements like, *"It's not fun!"* Sometimes the programs and outreaches that are used are made to make us look good. *Selfishness!* When we center on us, how attractive we are and what we do, that puts attention on us and away from the gospel, which is God's power to save (Romans 1:16). We can have a large number, have 'fun' together and enjoy things but if no one makes it to heaven because they are selfish and fleshly, we have done great damage to the souls of others.

Our selfishness is exposed when people have little to no desire to be bothered with spiritual growth three times a week. Our schedules are too busy or we have developed the habit of staying home. We need encouragement from our brethren. We need to grow into the likeness of Jesus and by not putting a priority on gathering with the saints, studying and praying together, we will only grow dimmer in our outreach and selfishness will become stronger within.

God wants people saved! Salvation should be the most blessed, wonderful part of our entire lives. Salvation leads one to praising God, walking in it and wanting to share it. It should motivate us, excite us and be the center of our lives. What about you? What is your purpose? Have you lost the thrill of the gospel? Take an inventory of your life and see what really means the world to you. Look at where you place priorities and there you will find your true love. Think about it!!!

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