



"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 – February 22, 2009

Heart to Heart...

"Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:14) What does God expect from us? Be peace and sanctification pursuers! How many lives are ruined by turmoil and unforgiving hearts? God wants us to pursue peace, even with those who do not like us. *"The sanctification"* is where we were separated from evil and made holy by the blood of Christ. We are the sanctified in Christ Jesus (I Corinthians 1:2). Christ has sanctified us! ***"And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved..."*** (Colossians 3:12) We are God's chosen, holy, set apart for God.

How are we to pursue *the sanctification*? We have to go after it by living a life that is holy! It is about putting aside the things that cause us to sin, that are stumbling blocks in our lives. Each day you grasp the things of God, letting go of the things that cause us to stumble or make us weak. If we aren't doing that, you won't see the Lord! This is serious.

God is holy and only those in Christ have a holy relationship to Him. We are holy because of Christ! We need to pursue that holiness in our lives. That means cleaning up our actions and attitudes that once enslaved us. If one was enslaved to alcohol, Christ forgave and set them free and they need to pursue a holy life separated from alcohol. That's *the sanctification*! If we were liars in the past, Christ forgave and set us free. We need to pursue *the sanctification* by stopping the lying and speak truth. If our tongues were used in loose ways, profane words and speech that tears down people, Christ forgave and sanctified you. Place your tongue under God's control and use words that are helpful, building up others. That's pursuing *the sanctification*! If we aren't serious about our relationship to the Lord and not pursue *the sanctification*, you will destroy the work of Christ on your behalf and will never see the Lord! Sometimes it seems people fight to stay in their old, sinful ways and not be concerned about *the sanctification*. No matter what they profess about their faith, they will not see the Lord if holiness in their lives is not pursued! The death of Jesus was supposed to impact the way we think and live.

God is holy and those who come near Him must treat Him as holy. We cannot do that on our own. It takes a complete cleansing from Christ to make us holy and the on-going work of the Lord if we yield to Him. ***"As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your behavior."*** (I Peter 1:14-15) Let's move deeper into the sanctifying work of our Lord by pursuing His holiness and changing our lives. It takes discipline and faith! If we do not believe in *the sanctification*, then we won't pursue *the sanctification*. Think about it!!!

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