



"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 – March 1, 2009

Heart to Heart...

People can easily be deceived but it is one thing for someone to deceive you and another for you to deceive yourself. God's word warns us that people will deceive others and deceive themselves (II Timothy 3:13). Paul made certain he (and other apostles) did not corrupt or handle God's word with any deceit (II Corinthians 4:1-2). He was an example to others openly, showing his sincerity of walking with the Lord. He walked what he taught!

The devil is a deceiver and uses his spiritual powers to take people into deception. The devil is not afraid of God's word, as long as people do not believe it or use it in the manner God intended. He will lure people with different "baits" to snare their heart to another path. He is crafty and makes things look good and inviting to deceive us in thinking things are alright with us. The devil deceived Eve. He deceived David (I Chronicles 21) and entered the heart of Judas trying to deceive Jesus. He works through false brethren disguising himself as an angel of light (II Corinthians 11:12-15). The devil wants to deceive us and let us deceive ourselves!

How does the devil get us to deceive ourselves? By blocking out the truth in your mind. He wants us to justify our decisions, to feel good about the direction our lives have taken on by setting up your own standard in your mind! The word of God is not overly important to such people but they know it is important enough to talk the talk! Here are some ways people deceive themselves:

Deception: How people believe they are going to heaven but know they are not following the will of God.

Deception: How people call themselves "Christians" but their lives reflect little of Christ.

Deception: How people call themselves "members of the church" but have no attachment to the body but a great attachment to their friends of the world.

Deception: How people say they love the Lord but show no love for His brethren.

Deception: How people have little interest in studying/listening to God's word.

These are just a few. Deception is the tool of the devil and he wants us to believe we are all okay when we know we aren't. The longer one walks in deception, the harder it is to get them out and eventually, it will be almost impossible. The key to not being deceived? A sincere faith and love for the truth! When we let God lead and His word have first place in our heart, our lives will take us upward into Him and there will be no deception or fear. Think about it!!!

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