



"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 15, 2009

Heart to Heart...

Fleshliness destroys the spiritual things of God. Fleshly brethren destroy spiritual progress in the church. It is most difficult to get fleshly people to recognize when they are being fleshly because it is so natural. For many, they base their idea of being spiritual on their knowledge of God's word and their activity in the church or their belief in the Lord. What is meant by "being fleshly?" Fleshliness is nothing more than following your own desires! Fleshly brethren follow their thinking or feelings with little regard for God or others. They feel like doing something, they do it! They feel like saying something, they say it! They give no thought to what is needed from God's perspective. They just do what they naturally do!

People think because they have experienced certain things in their lives, it gives them the insight to teach a lesson/class on the situation. What if in their struggle they responded fleshly? What do they have to offer? Fleshly teaching! Your experiences do not mean that you are spiritual and equipped to teach something or guide someone else. Sometimes men get up and they just speak whatever comes into their mind with little regard for Scripture. That's fleshly! People blurt out things without any thought of what they say and how it will have an effect on others. You see it in our Bible studies from time to time or conversations in a group. That's fleshliness! People get upset when they aren't appointed to a role in Christ or offended when things do not go their way. That's fleshliness! Fleshly brethren think because they are equipped in the work place with certain skills that automatically puts them to be used in the work of the church because of their profession. That's fleshliness! People complain or argue with another and hold to hard feelings. That's fleshliness! Paul spent a great deal of effort trying to teach the Corinthian brethren of their fleshly ways (I Corinthians 2:14-3:9).

How do we overcome our fleshliness? You have to start allowing the word of God to affect your thinking and life. The more you submit to the Lord, you get a better handle on seeing what is fleshly and spiritual. When someone does or says something you don't like, a spiritual person will automatically look at what would help the matter, not speak off the top of their head to incite them or make matters worse! You see it especially in marriages. Spiritual brethren will look for ways to take away strife and arguments. Fleshly brethren will speak their mind and tell someone how upset they are and hold to that hurt!

Fleshly brethren hurt the Lord's body. They are not overly concerned for the will or word of God. They follow their feelings or thinking easily while thinking they are retaining God. We need to grow in Christ, being conformed to His image and follow His word. We need to learn to let go of our thinking and see how He thinks in situations. If we will submit our lives, we will become wiser, more spiritual and be the children that walk in a worthy manner. Only then will you start growing in the real spiritual matters. Think about it!!!

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