



"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 – April 5, 2009

Heart to Heart...

Spiritual darkness is a horrible place to live. It blinds people and it is a power that has infiltrated their heart and mind. The worst thing about people living in spiritual darkness is they do not even realize they live there! That's why it is so deceptive and powerful. Jesus explained it like this: ***"For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed."*** (John 2:20) People in spiritual darkness do not see themselves as evil! In fact, they will argue just to prove they are lovers of God. What is evil in God's sight? How does He define spiritual darkness?

There are two simple teachings God gives us to determine if we are in spiritual darkness or the Light. (1) ***"But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes."*** (I John 2:11) Who is our brother? Those who have been baptized into the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. If there is anyone on earth we should be dedicated for, it's the brethren in Christ. What does it mean to hate? People that hate will not say they hate but they sure don't like someone! That disliking will keep them from sacrificing for them. I have known people who refuse to assemble with the saints because of their disliking of someone. That's hate! That's evil! That's darkness! Jesus washed the feet of Judas on the eve of being betrayed by him. That's love and sacrifice. (2) ***"By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: any who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother."*** (I John 3:10) A person in spiritual darkness has little concern for the righteousness of God. They do not concern themselves with pleasing God and practicing the righteousness that is from Him. They have their own standard of right and wrong and if they see something they feel is not wrong, they do it! No concern for God's standard. Paul said if someone is not concerned about the doctrine that conforms to godliness, they are conceited and understand nothing and do not have the truth. (I Timothy 6:3-5)

There will be more people loose their souls in Christ Jesus because of these two elements. They think they are right with the Lord and His grace will cover them. They are blinded and self deceived. To not love the Lord is to not love His people. To not be concerned with right behavior as defined by the Lord is the way of evil and unrighteousness. ***"We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death."*** (I John 3:14) Think about it!!!

Brent