



"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 – May 3, 2009

Heart to Heart...

"And not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God."(Colossians 2:19) All problems arise in the Lord's body, the church, because members are not holding fast to the head, Jesus Christ. When people put their opinions and feelings ahead of Christ, the only result will be division and the lack of love.

When one goes back and reads of the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, one thing became clear from the Lord: *"It's not about you!"* Take time and read the book of Judges, a dark time for the nation. The individualism was detrimental to the welfare of the whole and the individual attitude took the nation deep into sin and displeasing in the sight of the Lord. When people seek their own thinking, feelings and opinions above all else, that will erode the body, creating cliques and destroy the spiritual health.

I was looking at the bookstore the other day, going over to the religious section. There seemed to be a ceaseless stream of books based on "personal religion", personal devotion books, personal self help books that are supposedly spiritual in nature and the shelves were crammed full of such. It struck me that all these type of books feed this unhealthy hunger for "what's in it for me?" attitude. I even noticed several books calling for personal holiness. It is true that each of us are to pursue the Lord with all our heart and we are to be holy in our attitudes and lives like the Lord (I Peter 1:13-16). But what is happening for many, in their personal pursuits, they are becoming individualized rather than *"holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God."* The church is His body. He alone is the head. The body cannot exist on individualism! It must care for each and every member. We are individual members of one another (I Corinthians 12:27). We are *"a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."* (I Peter 2:9) That's what we, the body of Christ, are called to be. We are many individuals but we are one body. We are Christ's individually and as a whole. All of the individual pursuits by all the authors of these self help books have created within many a "church-shopping" experience. Find something that makes you feel good and that you like. No commitment to the Lord and His body. No expression of love for Christ and His people. No holding fast to the head. But a lot of empty talk and deceived hearts of how much they love the Lord.

God has placed each one in the body where He desires them to be (I Corinthians 12:18). We are to hold to the head, Jesus Christ, so we can grow individually while helping the whole. Sometimes things are difficult, but living and loving connected to the Lord Jesus will create within His church a caring and helping it grow upward into Him. It will lead members to help the whole. One cannot despise or dispense with *"the body of Christ"* and be pleasing to the Lord Jesus. **He will not have it!** Think about it!!!

Brent