



"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 24, 2009

## Heart to Heart...

I don't know if it concerns you or even if you are aware, but it concerns me. As I travel about speaking at different places, there is becoming a deep sense of "it's all about me!" attitude in the church. As I recently passed through a bookstore, I took notice of all the books on personal needs and experiences with the Lord. Books on being spiritually charged so we can be personally enlightened. Daily devotional books about your personal relationship with Jesus Christ and personal religious experiences are becoming a big hit in some congregations of the Lord's people. Even the assembly in some places center around "us!"

In all this, I hear people speak of the congregation where they attend is dead or they stifle the growth of those in a personal relationship with the Lord. I recently had one member of Christ's body tell me that the brethren "*block their vision of Christ Jesus and trying to move forward.*" Some of the very ones who are claiming to move forward with the Lord are becoming "it's all about me!" With all these personal attainments flying around, we lose sight of the Lord and His intentions. What really is happening is those who have this mind set are really destroying themselves and the body, the church! The church as a whole or the leaders aren't killing them.

Which congregation would you like to have been associated with in the first century? The Corinthian brethren with all their fighting, arguing and immorality? Why today some would leave a congregation like that in haste, calling them ungodly. They did have serious spiritual problems, but Paul addresses them as "***The church of God, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling.***" (I Corinthians 1:2) That's who they were. That's who we are! You want to be part of the church of Sardis? The Lord Jesus called them dead but appealed to them to "***wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die.***" (Revelation 3:2) They had some who were in a relationship but those some didn't leave the body to grow closer to the Lord! It says they still walked with Jesus. (Revelation 3:4) All this individualism in the church, the personal relationship mentality is taking us into areas that are harmful spiritually and deceptive. It makes us lose sight of the Lord and HIS BODY! Jesus is trying to help His body stay His body. We are the body of Christ, individually members of Jesus and one another. We cannot exist on our own and we are in the body to help the rest of the body to grow. (Just read I Corinthians 12.) When people pursue their individual likes and what they call "spiritual" is really helping the body to die. No care for Christ and His own. Just care for us as individuals and no concern or involvement in the whole. People find it easy to stay home and worship there. Where is the sense of Christ and His body? Read Romans 15:1-13 and see that the body has different levels of faith in the members and we are to be helping each one make it. In fact, helping and loving the body is what will help you grow in your personal growth! We need elderships that will make certain the body is being fed with the Lord's food, filling the individual hearts with faith. We need preachers preaching/teaching to hold to the head from who the whole body is supplied. (Colossians 2:19) The Lord is trying to save every member of the body, not destroy it! Walking away and individual pursuits are killing the church. Think about it!!!