



"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 – July 5, 2009

Heart to Heart...

Teachers play an important role in the spiritual progress of the church. Godly, humble, sacrificing teachers are appointed by God (I Corinthians 12:27-28). Those God-appointed teachers love His word and have a reverence for His word. The one who teaches should create a reverence and awe for God through their attitude toward His word. I have seen teachers over the years create a silliness and lazy attitude toward God's word and sometimes even disrespectful because they do not see the importance of their purpose they have been placed in. A teacher **is not** a moderator or a discussion group leader! Where did some come up with that? A teacher in the eyes of God will incur a much stricter judgment from the Lord because they are personally held responsible for taking people into faith, which can only come from the word, or away from faith with their lack of sincerity and seriousness of purpose (James 3:1-12).

Teachers are to give insight into God and His heart. The goal of all preaching/teaching is stated from God's holy word: ***"But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."*** (I Timothy 1:5) We see that teachers/preachers are to give meaning and insight to help us stay free from sin, find a conviction within and a faith that will hold the course, even in the midst of battles. A teacher is to be an example to other believers by the way they speak, live, love and follow purity (I Timothy 4:12). If a teacher isn't following the Lord with a whole heart, it makes what they teach hypocrisy and makes the hearers sluggish in their faith. The hearers will never rise above the teacher!

The Pharisees were the teachers among the Jews. They were very lacking in spiritual insight. Jesus responded to them like this when speaking to His own disciples: ***"Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit."*** (Matthew 15:14) How horrible is it when a teacher and those being taught cannot distinguish the things of God from other things? When both learners and teachers are blind, there will be one end result. The things taught end up in nothing more than a bunch of fruitless discussions (I Timothy 1:6-7) and wasting time.

I want to encourage our teachers! Follow the Lord. Pay close attention to His word. The result will be the gaining of spiritual strength, hope, faith and love that only can come from God. Pray for those who teach among us! Encourage those who teach among us! If you desire to teach, look closely at what God expects and where you are headed in your life. How do you handle God's word presently? When you speak to others, are you helping them toward the Lord by encouraging things in His word or just chit-chat? Do you gain insight to the things you study? I know several here that often share with me something they have discovered from the Scriptures and it really encourages and helps me. That's a teacher! Those are the ones the Lord wants instructing His children. Think about it!!!

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