



"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 – October 18, 2009

Heart to Heart...

Jesus told the Pharisees their worship was in vain (Matthew 15:8-9). How would you like to hear those words from the Lord? People assemble for worship for years and their lives improve very little. In fact, some have slacked off in their worship! Paul told the Corinthian brethren their worship was making some of them worse off spiritually! (I Corinthians 11:17, 30) I wonder what the Lord says about your worship? Your assembling today, is it acceptable or rejected by the Lord?

Israel worshiped! They claimed God as their God and loved their worship of Him (Isaiah 1:10-15). They were God's rejected. In fact, God told them not to even pray to Him any longer because of their sinful hearts. Amos came to God's people with God's teachings. Amos thundered against the worshipers, insisting that by their worship and attitude in worship, it was multiplying their sins! Doesn't that sound strange to us? You mean one can be worshiping and sinning while worshiping? YES!

Listen to the verbs God uses against His people in regard to their worship: "*I hate...I reject...nor do I delight...I will not accept...I will not even look...take away...I will not even listen.*" (Amos 5:21-23) God placed a large stamp across the heart and soul of His people: "***Worship rejected!***"

We have difficulty believing that God rejects worship from His people. It's even harder to believe that our worship could actually be killing us spiritually! We use the phrases like, "*Going to church*" meaning our worship but for many, that's all it is, "*going to church.*" There is no worship of God in their heart. Attitudes of the heart, attitudes toward the Lord, the reason and purpose of coming together all take place in the heart and that determines if we are God accepted or our worship is condemning us. To worship with sin in your heart, that is adding more sin to your life because of hypocrisy. Ill feelings toward another brother or sister causes your worship to be unacceptable. To take the Supper of the Lord and have little to no concern for the body of Christ is killing people spiritually. To worship and not engage your heart creates a serious sin problem. Unacceptable worship will bring God's condemnation upon us.

If we could look into God's Book and see all the Sunday's we worshiped, what would we find stamped across our name? God is serious. Our salvation is serious. Our Savior is serious. Our worship should be serious. His atoning blood should be adored and heart moving that we would want nothing more than to say: "***Thank you Lord!***" with our songs of praise, our prayers offered and fellowshiping the Lord and one another in His Supper. That should drive us to want to worship. How serious are you about your worship today? Think about it!!!

Brent