



"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 – November 8, 2009

Heart to Heart...

Do you remember when you became a Christian? How's does one become a Christian? I've heard some say when they accepted Jesus as Lord of their lives and into their heart, they were saved and that made them a Christian. (They quote from Romans 10:9-10, not realizing in the context, Paul is addressing those already saved.) Others have said when they repeated the sinners prayer (which is not found in the Bible) and confessed before God. The *only* way one becomes a Christian is when they are baptized (immersed) into union with Jesus in His name (Matthew 28:19/Acts 2:38). That's the Biblical view of when and how one becomes a Christian.

Back to the question: Do you remember when you became a Christian? What did that moment mean when you were immersed into His death and raised one with Him? There are several things it means but one of the most vital things is that you entered into a relationship with God. It means that you gave your heart, your allegiance to God and you are "in union" with Christ, that you are one with Him. You didn't join a social club or sign up for some special event. You were completely sold into slavery to sin and the devil as your father but the gracious Lord sought you out in Christ and brought you into oneness with Him, freeing you from sin's bondage and a change in fatherhood and family. You were brought to God!

You began your Christian life because of God's love for you and He brought you to Himself through Jesus. You're not trying to pass some sort of test to see if you belong or not. You do belong because Jesus said you belong and He has laid claim on you. This is not about intellect but a real faith in His love that won us to Himself. You're not trying to become His child. ***"See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are."*** (I John 3:1) You are His child even in your doubts, failures and lack of strength. Some have wandered away back into the world God bought them from. They are more comfortable with sin and the devil and never really grasped hold of God and His love. That is heartbreaking to the Father. Others may just be nothing more than a religious person wanting to be religious without any commitment to the Lord's love. They wander from here to there, looking but never finding what they are missing. It's because they look everywhere but Christ! The impact of being a Christian has never found its way into their heart to settle them down so they can enjoy the relationship with others in the same relationship.

You are related to God when you were united with Christ through baptism (Galatians 3:26-27). You and God are one. Are you growing in this relationship? Here's how you know: you find you're more sensitive to sin and more anxious to please the Lord because of the relationship you have with God. Your heart wants to please Him and you care deeper each day for His truth. The truth of the matter, God really does care and love us with words that cannot be penned. Rejoice in the Lord! Let the joy of the Lord be your strength! Enjoy your walk and relationship with the eternal Father. He has claimed you! Think about it!!!

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