



"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 29, 2009

Heart to Heart...

It seems more and more are moving away from what the Lord called His body, the church, to be. Our society is dictating individualism and that mind set has found its way into Christ's body. People believe they can live independently of the body and survive. The body of Christ, the church, is not about individualism even though we have individuals involved. The body of Christ are those saved! It's that simple. They are saved by the blood of Christ and they know they are saved as it is reflected in their lives. He brought them into union with Himself upon baptism into Christ. We belong to Him and as a result, we were placed in the body of Christ by God Himself, just as He desired each one (I Corinthians 12:18). The weak, the strong, the failing and the strugglers who belong to Christ are part of Him. Over the years I have heard people in Christ say about their local congregation that they don't feel they belong. Are we trying to make Christ's body a social club or something you join? Through whose eyes are we looking?

As the physical body has many members, it is still our body. It is true that the eyes don't do the hearing and the nose doesn't do the seeing but it is NOT true that seeing and hearing and smelling are isolated and individually working. Seeing is a function of the body and not merely the eyes! It is not the eyes that see through the eyes. The body sees through the eyes! It is not the ears that hear through the ears. It is not the nose that smells through the nose. Hearing and smelling is what the body as a single and undivided unit does and it does these things through the various parts of the body.

Just as the physical body shares the above characteristics, so also does the body of Christ. There are no isolated parts that function independently of the rest of the body. A hand in a body has no existence without the body! It can only be understood as a hand precisely because there is a body of which it is a part. That means the church cares for one another! ***"From whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."*** (Ephesians 4:16) The church cares for itself when the wives care for their husbands and husbands care for their wives. Those are individual parts that affect the whole. Many times we don't see this. When we, as individual members of the body fulfill our work, the body is at work. I am your preacher and need to fulfill the role where I have been placed but I cannot fulfill it without you, the body. The elders have their tasks in the body but they aren't individuals seeking their personal goals. They need you, the body to function correctly. Just read carefully I Corinthians 12 and you will see this teaching plainly.

Not everyone is called into the same function but no one is called to be their own individual and work separate from the body. We are called the church because we are attached to Christ, the head. We are His body and we all are part of His body. When someone mistreats or attacks another part of the body, they are attacking Christ. That's what Paul found out when he was persecuting the church in Acts 9. If one doesn't feel they belong, they need to re-consider who they belong to. It is non-sense to think we exist independently of the rest of the people of God and what is worse, to live like the body doesn't matter! Some have little concern for the church. Peter said, ***"Love the brotherhood."*** (I Peter 2:17) Think about it!!!

Brent