



"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 – December 6, 2009

Heart to Heart...

Who are we? Who are we really? I am not sure some even know. Recently on a "family" show, they were advertising of watching an upcoming episode of a famous actress. They called her show "family entertainment." The actress was half naked, made an off-color statement while dancing around and singing. This was called family oriented!

Today, many in our society are trying to redefine "family values." A new standard of morals, honesty and clothing attire is being placed on us and it is working. Even the spiritual values are being re-invented! Now in the church of our Lord, people are discussing our present day "culture" as the setting for what we do and believe. We are being encouraged to be compatible with our culture and compromise because of the culture that has been established. I heard a preacher in the church of our Lord say in his lesson that if we don't start "dressing down" like our culture, we won't win anyone to Christ! The present world we live in are telling us what we are and who we are and many of our brethren are buying into it.

Jesus walked on our earth and addressing His disciples (listeners), He spoke these words, "***You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.***" (Matthew 5:13) Salt adds flavor and preserves. Our culture is not to define our beliefs, our lifestyles and attire! Who is being molded here? If we in Christ are to be the salt of the earth, we should be helping those around us change to God, not us to them! If we allow the world to mold us into its thinking and follow its acceptance of attire and culture, we are conforming to the world (Romans 12:2). If we lose the God-given word as our standard and His teachings to instruct us, we become useless and good for nothing

All of this isn't really new. This has been going on since the very beginning of the creation of this world. It was the devil who told Eve that she would not die for eating or touching the fruit (Genesis 3:4)! It was the devil who promised Eve that God was actually holding her back from knowledge, being like Him (Genesis 3:5). The devil placed on her a different approach other than what God had spoken and she bought it. "***...and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.***" (Romans 5:12) The whole world lies in the power of the devil (I John 5:19) and we are going to allow our culture to dictate what is "family entertainment", what is morally acceptable, what is deemed in the world's eyes as honest? This mind set has found its way into the church and many are turning worship into an event and standard of the world around us. Who is defining us and setting our standard? Who are we? Who are we really?

Brent