



"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 – April 25, 2010

Heart to Heart...

The Lord is trying to get His love in us. We know that but we don't always co-operate with Him. Too many times we are selfish and self-centered that His love cannot affect our hearts and mind. Over the years I have watched brothers and sisters 'coast' along as all is well with them spiritually. Then one day, something happens that affects them personally and out the door they head! Offended, hurt and basking in their pain. Paul warned Timothy this would happen. There will be grievous times in the church because some members will be lovers of self (II Timothy 3:1-5). Self lovers make things difficult for the church.

The love of God is what seeks the highest good of another, sacrificing for their sake. We see the height of this demonstrated through the cross. God's love is described as not a self seeking love (I Corinthians 13:5) and Jesus wasn't a self seeker. Love cost Him His life! Jesus gave up His rights for us, seeking our highest good. Aren't you grateful? That love and gratitude should translate into our lives in sacrificing for others as He sacrificed for us. When we are so "into" ourselves, our thinking it leads us down of path of blindness and self destruction.

The source of all quarrels and conflicts is the absence of God's love (James 4:1-4). The source of conflict is because things don't go the way we approve and our selfish desires rise to the surface. We want it our way and think we are being discounted. It eats on our heart and soul and finally it pushes us to the point that we justify our responses. The problem is God is not like that. When we use our reasoning and wisdom the result is selfish ambition which is the opposite of love. Sometimes we don't want to love, sacrifice for others. That's what the devil would want. From the beginning we have seen the devil stir people to follow their desires and make sure no one takes away their rights!

John said it best: "***We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.***" (I John 3:14) Love is the proving ground that we possess the life of God. Peter says we are to "***love the brotherhood.***" (I Peter 2:17) If we do not love, we live and take up residence in death and death has no part of God. Let's encourage one another to love like Christ and rejoice when you encounter a situation that is difficult because there you will find how close you are walking with the Lord! Think about it!!!

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