



"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 – May 30, 2010

## ***Heart to Heart...***

The following things that are written are not an attack on anyone. I simply write to emphasize the seriousness of teaching and the great need for godly, capable teachers. At times I have wondered why more people never take advantage of our Bible studies. There could be several reasons to this but one reason that we need to be certain about is making sure that those teaching aren't hindering.

Teaching is a difficult task. It takes a humble heart and a sincere faith toward God and His word to instruct His people. It's not about lecturing! It's about putting the hearts of the people into the hands of God. Teachers play a most important role in the church. A teacher can create a reverence and awe for God and His word or an endless "wordiness" that takes away faith and causes people to grow weary. Teachers have a great responsibility in the eyes of God and because of that they will incur a stricter judgment (James 3:1).

A teacher is NOT a "discussion group leader." We don't need "discussion group leaders" but God given teachers who can instruct us and build our faith. A teacher of God's word is one who instructs, giving insight to God and His ways helping our faith to mature. (Isn't that what the word means?) A teacher must know something about what they teach in order to instruct and build faith.

A teacher is an example to those around. If a teacher isn't following what they instruct, they are hypocrites! That is a direct cause for others becoming dull. If the word isn't serious to the teacher, it won't be serious to those listening.

The Pharisees were the teachers among the Jews. They lacked spiritual insight. It is a terrible tragedy when a teacher lacks spiritual insight and is trying to teach! Jesus responded to these teachers with these words: He calls them sons of hell and those they instruct become twice the sons of hell (Matthew 23:15). They were blind guides of the blind (Matthew 15:14). They prevented people from entering the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 23:13). These are just a few statements Jesus made about teachers in His day!

Paul warns Timothy that the teachers in church that strayed from God's intended purpose and desire ended up with a lot of fruitless discussion and have no clue what they were making their confident assertions about (I Timothy 1:6-7).

We need godly, sincere, faith building teachers. We need teachers to be examples. We need teachers that treat God's word as the ONLY power source with reverence. Teachers are to be grounded in Scriptures to equip themselves and those listening to have adequate training for every good work (II Timothy 3:16-17). Please, pray for our teachers! Pray for us preachers as we pray for you. And to our teachers and those desiring to teach, you play a serious role in God's church and will have a profound effect on the faith of many. ***"Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you."*** (I Timothy 4:16) Think about it!!!

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