



"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 – June 20, 2010

Heart to Heart...

"There is nothing wrong with doing that. The Bible doesn't say it is wrong." We have heard statements as such many times taking on different forms. It seems some are just bent in living the way they want to live as long as they don't cross the major teachings of God's word.

We need a basis of faith for us to determine our lives by. We need to be listening to God, helping us move away from our personal wants and desires into His will and holiness. ***"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord, Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."*** (Colossians 3:17) Our lives are to be a reflection of the Lord Jesus. As He is, so we are to be in this world! When we do things in speech and action, Jesus should be the motivation behind our desires.

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (I Corinthians 10:31) Whatever we do, it should be done to God's glory, to lifting Him up. On the job, in our homes and about the city, our lives are to bring glory and honor to our heavenly Father. Our lives in every instance should make people see the beauty and radiance of God and glorify Him because of our practices and attitudes. ***"Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God."*** (I Corinthians 10:32) We must be careful we aren't offensive to people around us so the name of God is not harmed in any way. We need to think about the consequences of our statements, our attitudes and what we get ourselves involved in because it is a direct reflection on God from our lives. In the first century, there were three groups of people: (1) The Jews under the Old Covenant. (2) The Gentiles (Greeks) who did their own things and had their own religious practices that had no tie to the heavenly Father. (3) The church, the blood bought people under the New Covenant as a result of preaching the gospel. On the day of Pentecost in Acts 1-2, Peter opened the door for people to come into this New Covenant. The majority of Jews rejected the apostles preaching and they remained outside of Christ, no part of the church of God. Those who received the teachings responded to the word of God as spoken by the apostles and were baptized for forgiveness of their sins and they were in-turn added to Christ's church, the saved (Acts 2:47). About ten years later, the Gentiles were given this same opportunity to enter God's blessings and household (Acts 10-11). The result? Paul was making certain that he was not a hindrance to anyone being led to Christ (Acts 9:19-23). The church at Thessalonica was encouraged to have as their ambition in life: ***"...to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands..."*** (I Thessalonians 4:11-12).

We too need to make certain we are glorifying God in our lives. People ask about social drinking is it alright for a Christian? Read the verses above and let them be your guide. What creates within us desires that do not bring glory to God? What makes us pursue things that dishonor Jesus and His name in our lives? We need to ask ourselves that the things I practice, purchase, and involve myself in, what if it keeps someone from seeing Jesus? That's a serious thought. Think about it!!!

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