



"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 27, 2010

Heart to Heart...

Sometimes in the church of our Lord, people have a 'Peter Pan' faith! What I mean by that is there are those in Christ that have never grown up. They still exist in the place they were when they entered Jesus. They might know their Bible a little better but their understanding is very limited. Their life shows it. No real motivation and ignorant of many things spiritually. They have little ability to determine what is spiritual and what is fleshly. They simply continue the path they always have walked since the day they were baptized into Christ. They gradually grow away from spiritual values to living like the world but cloaked in a little religion. They are comfortable with it and have little commitment.

"For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for his is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil." (Hebrews 5:13-14) The Hebrew writer is rebuking Christian's for their immaturity and lack of forward movement. How does one grow to discern the difference between what is good and bad? How does one know they are on the path to growing upward into Christ? They take the food of God (His word) and practice it! They don't just push it aside and let it be. They want the word and want to apply it to their lives. They take the word of righteousness, take the solid food as revealed, practice it and it gives them the ability to tell the difference between what is good and what is evil. The spiritually immature aren't accustomed to God's word of righteousness and they make mistakes like an infant child would make. They have to be fed milk, worked with and helped along the way. But if they have a sincere faith, they start gaining and growing. Sometimes those in Christ never become accustomed to the word of righteousness. Righteousness, growing and putting off the old self are not followed much less important to them. It's a lot like a little child that does not know when evil lurks and they get into trouble or hurt themselves. Little children don't know of dangers to avoid or situations they get themselves into. The same with brothers and sisters in Christ that put little effort into practicing the word of righteousness, never realizing the harm they are doing to themselves or what dangers they may be headed toward.

We need to grow and mature in our faith to be a people that aren't carried here and there by every wave of doctrine or by the smooth and crafty words of those who seem to speak religious themes about God (Ephesians 4:14-15). We must be learning what pleases the Lord and follow His desires by putting into practice what He says. We need our spiritual hearts to be shaped and molded so we won't be led into things that will harm us, eat away our faith and love. There is only ONE way to discern good and evil: practice the righteousness based on God's word! And people wonder why we don't have better leadership, more elders in the Lord's church? Think about it!!!

Brent