



"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 – January 30, 2011**

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

It seems more and more people are getting bored and want change. We hear it all the time in the world! "*I'm bored!*" It creates an uneasiness and laziness in the lives of people. That attitude at times can permeate those of us in Christ Jesus.

People in the church speak of becoming stale or in a rut. We do the same old things, the same old ways and it creates within us to want to change things. Brethren begin to challenge others, stirring them up. In my early preaching years I was trying to bring about change in the church but not for the proper spiritual reasons. My lack of understanding and youth were exposed. My lack of insight cost me dearly in the eyes of God in some situations and I'm thankful my eyes were opened!

When people want a change, if we would open our eyes and realize most of the changes that are spoken about are merely external things. What is not addressed is the real issue of change, the heart. You can change externals and environments. You can try to create a feeling or mood but you cannot change another person's heart or desires. Only the heart wanting, and desiring the Lord will allow true change to begin. The preaching of God's word, the gospel, is what brings about change within the heart which will change our attitudes and lives. It is the mercies of God that Paul appeals to in order for brethren to present themselves back as a living and holy sacrifice to the Lord (Romans 12:1-2). It was Christ the churches of Galatia were leaving for external Old Testament service as they sought for change. Paul taught the brethren at Colossae that Christ in them was their hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). The Thessalonians were praised for their turning from idols and serving a living God (I Thessalonians 1:9-10). It was the word of God accepted and acted upon that performed work in the true believers (I Thessalonians 2:13).

The same principles that changed people in the first century are the very things that change the heart of people today. In the Lord's church, there are things that need to change. We need to change our fleshly attitudes and desires. We need to back off of pressing our opinions and issues on others so they will do things our way. Changing externals or trying to "fire people up" is not the change that is needed. When you start that road, you will have to find a new change agent to keep things moving. The heart needs to be pierced and moved toward serving the Lord in truth. To focus on Jesus and Him crucified is where change will start within your heart. Change the heart, change the person. Why have we become stuck in a rut? Maybe we have stopped our faith and heart toward the Lord and His teachings? Think about it!!!

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