



"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 – February 13, 2011

Heart to Heart...

We are the saved of God. Salvation is not religion but about Christ being our life and our thoughts. The greatest threat to marriage today is the philosophies that are prominent in the world about marriage advice. These philosophies are 'anti-God' and destructive upon family relationships. The marriage philosophies that are in books and believed by many can be destructive to those in Christ Jesus (Colossians 2:8). We need to do things according to Christ rather than what people say about marriages and home life. There is too much intake from the world and little from the Lord. We are seeing the result of marriages failing in the church of our Lord because of this. If Jesus is our Lord and we submit to Him with all our heart, you will see the benefit in the marriage relationship.

"Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord." (Colossians 3:18) What does the Lord expect from a wife? When God created man out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2), man was created out of the lowliest of material. Out of man God took a rib and formed woman. God brought the woman to man and in their marriage the Lord joined them together as one. The union of a man and woman as husband and wife are the intentions of the Lord. In the above verse, the Lord gives us His way of intended operation within marriage. Wives, subjection is a word the world sees as an irritant and is defiant against it. God speaks this is His design. Subjection to the husband is fitting to the Lord! That doesn't mean the husband does everything right and he surely isn't the Lord! The issue with the Lord is the wife's respect for the Lord and His authority and that is shown by submitting to the husband.

"Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them." (Colossians 3:19) The Lord says the husband is to love (agape) their wife. The husband is expected to show a love of sacrifice and devotion in caring for his wife. But then the Lord brings up the term "*embittered*." It means to irritate by treating harshly. The one common failure in husbands as God placed them as head in the home (Ephesians 5:23) is husbands take their God-given role and use it to control their wife! In other words, they take an authoritative position that they are the head and use that position in treating the wife with harshness! They become "*embittered*" against their wives by trying to dominate them! The husband is completely out of line with the Lord in this way. The Lord requires of the husband to love, not treat harshly or irritate their wives in the relationship. Some husbands say, "*The Lord says I'm the head and you are to submit!*" That's being "*embittered*" and not love! In marriage, the Lord requires much more of the husband than He does the wife! This teaches us that the husband is to stop the authority stance and do what the Lord expects by loving (agape) his wife.

In all this, the Lord expects the husband as the head of the home to lead the marriage in a right relationship to the Lord by loving his wife. The wife follows with an attitude that is fitting to the Lord by submitting. Both husband and wife come together as one and this is what makes the home work in glorifying God! If any one of the expectations of the Lord is missing in the marriage, it creates a pressure and misguided home. It is simply amazing how little is taught in God's word about marriage in detail because the two attitudes that must prevail is submission and love and both are fitting and well pleasing to the Lord! Therein you will find a home in step with the Lord and growing. Think about it!!!

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