



"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 – April 4, 2011

Heart to Heart...

My heart's desire is not to offend. That's never my purpose. Sometimes you have to make a stand or teach something that might not be popular but popularity is not the standard. Because someone wants to believe something does not make that belief true. What makes anything we believe true must be matched with God's word. The Lord set the standard of teaching and belief and if we are going to be saved in the end, we must line up with that.

It seems more and more of those in Christ are turning to the world, the professional world, for answers about living life. Psychology is flourishing and growing at a record pace according to reports. Recently Carey and I had a man claiming to be in Christ tell us that unless one has a high degree of education, one cannot understand how to solve people's problems. That was sad to us both. (By the way, that mind-set left out the apostles – Acts 4:13) Isaiah speaks what sort of Savior and Lord Jesus is calling Him "*Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace.*" (Isaiah 9:6) Makes you wonder if anyone believes this?

As more and more people find their lives failing, and I am speaking to those in Christ, they find little power to grasp and allow to work within them. To solve their difficulties they turn to the ideas of the world to solve their problem. The behavior of people must relate to God! You cannot explain behavior without understanding it in relationship to God. God is our Creator. He created the makeup of mankind and tells us exactly what will happen in our lives and why, if we would only heed. Paul told Timothy the difficulties that would arise in the church would be from those who are "*holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power.*" (II Timothy 3:5). Read the previous verses coming into that and you will see behavior patterns. Just think, "*denying the power!*" What psychology tries to free people from has only succeeded in making them addicts of therapy and therapists. People can't function without "*that talk*" so they need to unload. Jesus said He came to give life and life abundantly (John 10:10). It was Paul who told the saints to stop the anxious thought process and give it to God, talk to God about it with a right attitude and God would respond by guarding your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7). Our heart and mind, the two major elements of our makeup!

Paul warned the church at Ephesus that a real danger exists for those in Christ Jesus. "*So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.*" (Ephesians 4:17-19) Knowing this, we just follow their lead? The Corinthian brethren were informed that Jesus is the power of God and the wisdom of God (I Corinthians 1:24). Paul spoke in all his trials, his efforts, his mistreatments that he was trying to present every single member of Christ's body complete in Christ (Colossians 1:28). "*For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.*" (Colossians 1:29) Paul found the power beyond himself and that power was Jesus Christ working within him. Even when he was in dangers and cast into prison as a common criminal, he had hold of the power of God. What kept him from depression? What kept him from thoughts of hopelessness?

Are we missing something today? Maybe we are taking on too much information from the world on how to live while not believing in the One who lives? The world is separated from God and His Christ. Are we

going to take insight from those who aren't in fellowship with God? I'm not saying we won't get down or struggle in our lives. What I am saying is we need to make certain we turn to the right source during those times. Paul said it well: ***“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.”*** (Ephesians 6:10)
Please, think about it!!

Brent