



"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 17, 2011

Heart to Heart...

We live among a sin-filled world. Before we were baptized into Christ, we too were adding our part of sin to the mix. Many in Christ never realize the dangers of being involved in many of the activities and thinking of the world. The direction of the world has the power of the devil behind them. John reminds us of that: ***"We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."*** (I John 5:19) James takes us one step further: ***"You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."*** (James 4:4) To give yourself into the hands of the world around, sacrifice for the world, and take on the attitudes of the world makes themselves an enemy of God. We learn where the world stands in relationship to God in this one verse. Does it concern us?

Because of the daily presence of sin around us, sin is downplayed. That's what the devil would do. He wants sin and sinful attitudes to be acceptable so he gets the world to follow suit hoping those of us in Christ will do the same. For instance, the devil has led many to believing homosexuality is no longer a sin but an alternative lifestyle created by God. Let's not call it homosexuality but "gay". God says those who practice homosexuality will not inherit the kingdom of God (I Corinthians 6:9-10). God did not create one to be homosexual but it is a choice that comes from a mind that rejects God's truth for a lie (Romans 1:26-27).

Adultery is no longer a breaking of the sacredness of marriage but an "affair". That sounds so casual. It is even encouraged by some marriage counselors to help a failing marriage. I know of a couple in Christ where one mate was encouraging the other to have an affair! The devil has taken hold of that kind of thinking. ***"Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge."*** (Hebrews 13:4)

Sexual immorality is not shameful in the world. It is encouraged among the single. The world sends the message: ***"Practice safe sex!"*** to our young people. The television programs promote it. Babies out of wedlock are normal anymore with little shame. The devil is devious and draws young people into this world of sin. ***"For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God."*** (I Thessalonians 4:3-5)

Drunkenness is not wrong according to the devil. In fact the world promotes drinking as something good to take the edge off the day. Drinking is what leads one to becoming an alcoholic! The devil has convinced people it is a disease. God says it is a deed of the flesh that will keep you eternally from the Lord (Galatians 5:21).

The devil is active among the world and cradles them in his lap. The devil makes everyone lessen the seriousness of sin and makes it acceptable. Let's not lose the fact that sin will separate us from God and

sin has a deadening power to create a casual, lazy way of looking at things and glorying in what is utter shameful in the eyes of God. Sin is deceitful and will harden your heart (Hebrews 3:13). Just look at the cross and you will see God's wrath against our sins and His love and compassion to bring us to Himself. That should create within us the desire to not "*friend ourselves to the world*" but keep ourselves pure and free from sin. Think about it!!!

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