



"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 24, 2011

Heart to Heart...

Sometimes we know something so well that when we read it in God's word we just gloss right over it with little thought because we have the attitude within we know it. That's not spiritually good or healthy.

The church is the body of Jesus Christ Himself (Ephesians 1:22-23). That means the church is tied to Him and exists because of Him. The body is made up of many members but is one because of Jesus (I Corinthians 12:12-14). The building up of Christ's body depends on the proper working of each individual member (Ephesians 4:16). That means you personally have a direct affect in helping the body grow. If you aren't taking your part to help seriously, what are you really doing? If we are not helping Christ's body grow toward the Lord that means we are hindering it from growth.

"For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individual member of one another." (Romans 12:4-5). How do you view yourself in relationship to the church? We are not just individuals but "*individual members of one another*" because we are attached to Christ. Our first recognition must be Christ and our attachment to Him. That brings us to be members of one another. The Lord expects you individually to work your part in the body to help the whole.

In the physical realm, when my hands work, it's not just my hands working but they are working in relationship to the rest of my body. When my feet walk, it's not my feet but my body working as one unit. A physical member NEVER does anything for its own self. Whatever a member of our physical body does it does for the sake of the whole body! That leads to the question: are you living as an individual with little thought to your relationship to the body or are you an individual member of Christ's body? Are you working properly to help build the body in love (Ephesians 4:15-16)?

As one grows spiritually they become more and more helpful to the whole body. If one is not growing spiritually they become stale and dull and their indifference will affect the growth of the body. To be lazy, unconcerned about spiritual matters affects the whole. To be involved in things that aren't healthy spiritually is affecting the body. The only way you are having no effect on the body is if you are dead and Christ cut you off for your unbelief (Romans 11:20-21). Unconcerned, faithless people aren't members of Christ's body!

Are you helping the body of Jesus grow? Are you growing, looking for opportunities to serve and help the whole body move toward the Lord and true spirituality? Those are serious questions to ponder because the only other answer is dead, removed and lost. Think about it!!!

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