



"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 – June 26, 2011

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

While in my travels, I was visiting with a sister in Christ. She revealed how “unmotivating” the worship assembly was toward the Lord where she attended. I asked her to explain. She spoke about the men that lead singing were slow and sang the same old songs. She spoke about other men that lead “everlasting” prayers. The preacher said a lot of nothing. Her final statement was, “The worship just doesn’t do much for me!”

It made me think, do we (you) feel this way? I have watched over the years brethren leave the church, the body of Christ and go after religions that excite and stir with a “rock and roll” service. Many look for the external to motivate their spiritual side but is that really happening? Externals do not motivate the internal. That’s what the Pharisees did (Matthew 23:25-28). The heart must be engaged. Are some just conforming or being transformed (Romans 12:2)? Have some never been taught the true nature of worship and what worship is about? Have some lost sight of the Lord? Aren’t our assemblies of worship to remember what the Lord and Savior did for us? Aren’t we here to honor Him, uphold His name, a name above every name? Aren’t we gathered to worship in the Supper proclaiming His death until He comes? All of this is “unmotivating”? Where does true worship come from?

The world has made and directed worship toward the entertainment industry. Our society is filled with entertainment. People love to be entertained but entertainment takes no engagement of the heart. It is simply sitting back and letting it come to you! Isn’t that why we go to movies? Listen to music? To worship “in spirit and truth” (John 4:23-24) is a heart engaged that is full of thankfulness for what has been done for us in Jesus and a desire to want to express that from within! It is an expression of the heart that wants our worship acceptable to Him (Hebrews 12:28-29).

***“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.”*** (Ephesians 5:18-20) To be drunk with wine “controls” a person. To be “filled with the Spirit” is to be controlled by God. How does this happen? By singing and making the melody in the heart. It is about the heart bowing toward the Lord. Being thankful in the name of the Lord is a heart that has been moved and touched by the death of Jesus on our behalf and it is expressed to God in His name. The real reason some are never encouraged by the assemblies is there is a problem with the heart. “It’s boring” is an unthankful heart, a heart not engaged. So, what do they receive from God? Nothing! Why? Because nothing is going on in their heart. It is impossible to encourage one another when the heart is looking for something besides the Lord.

The assembly of worship of the saints is where God’s people come together in His name, seeking His glory, seeking His face, honoring His Majesty from a heart of thankfulness and God is aware of those who do and those who don’t. Think about it!!!

Brent