



"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 – July 10, 2011

Heart to Heart...

Redemption is one of the richest words and blessing we have in Christ Jesus! ***"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace."*** (Ephesians 1:7) What is ***redemption***? It literally means ***"to buy back."*** What did we have to be bought back from? Our enslavement to sin and the power of the devil. The devil was our ruler, our master and Jesus defeated Him at the cross and ***redeemed*** us. Our ***redemption*** came at a high price. It cost the blood and life of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Redemption calls each of us to a holy response to God. It is our motivation to do the right thing and invest in God's righteousness. Why should wives submit to their husbands? (Ephesians 5:23/Colossians 3:18) Because you have been ***redeemed!*** The husband is called to love his wife because you have been ***redeemed!*** (Ephesians 5:25/Colossians 3:19) The family relationship is based on ***redemption***. If one is still under the power of the devil and sin, you have nothing more to base your relationship on then his work in you.

Why should one forgive another who has hurt them deeply or sinned against them? Because God, through the ***redeeming*** work of the blood of Christ has forgiven us. (Ephesians 4:32) Why should we accept one another when there is little in common in likes and dislikes? Because we share in the ***redemption*** in Christ Jesus and He accepted us as His bother (Romans 15:7). Why are servants called to obey their masters on earth, even to those who are unreasonable? Because of the ***redeeming*** suffering of Christ on our behalf (I Peter 2:21-25). Why are we to look to others as more important than ourselves? Because Christ, in His ***redeeming*** death thought us as more important than Himself (Philippians 2:3-8). Why does God ask us to live our lives in holiness and reverence? Because we have been called into the presence of God ***redeemed*** though the blood of Christ (I Peter 1:14-18). Why do we need to be moving away from who we are naturally and being transformed into the image of Jesus? Because we died with Christ, were buried with Christ and ***redeemed*** in Christ to destroy our sinful tendencies (Romans 6). Why do we love one another? Because Jesus laid down His life for us, bringing ***redemption*** to us (I John 3:16).

In all these things, we aren't called to live with good behavior because we are good people with a few flaws. We aren't called to righteousness because we are special. We are called to do these things because we have been ***redeemed!***

"Redeemed how I love to proclaim it! Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb; Redeemed thru His infinite mercy, His child, and forever, I am. Redeemed, redeemed, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb; Redeemed, redeemed, His child, and forever, I am." (Song 514) Do we believe it? Does it change us? Think about it!!!

Brent