



"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 – October 2, 2011

Heart to Heart...

To worship the Almighty Jehovah is a grace-given privilege. I know many may not see it that way. The worship of Jehovah God is awesome.

Worship to some is duty. Listen to this statement that was made between two individuals: "*Do you think I would be here if I didn't have to?*" This was stated from what many thought was one of the more spiritual men in the church.

What is worship? It literally means "to kiss toward, to do reverence to." Worship is the response to one's reverence for the Lord. The lack of reverence will lead one into a world away from the Lord. We see it in the beginning with Cain (Genesis 4). His offering, his outpouring of his worship in sacrifice was not in faith (Hebrews 11:4) and the result was lack of reverence. He killed his brother! Nadab and Abihu thought the fire they brought before the Lord was good enough coming from somewhere else. After all, fire is fire? Without reverence for God it cost them their lives (Leviticus 10). God sounded these words: "***By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honored.***" (Leviticus 10:3) King Saul thought he would take upon himself to offer God what he felt was the best but ignoring God's word (I Samuel 13). Jesus condemned the Pharisees for their man-made teachings as the doctrines of God (Matthew 15).

Worship is about God, not us or our wants! It's not what about "moves" us. True God accepted, God centered, God seeking worship is about God and nothing more. It's not one-liners that make us laugh. It's not about speaking spiritual joy as fun and ball-game atmosphere. Worship is love being expressed from the heart giving to God what God wants, keeping God at the center. Worship is not a production of drama. Worship is to please the Lord Jehovah in all respects. When true reverence from the heart for the Lord is being offered, honor will be the result. Just listen when the world honors fallen soldiers that sacrificed for our country, they don't act jubilant and break out into all sorts of loud outbursts but there is a soberness of mind and heart. Worship is not a duty or task but honoring the presence of the Almighty!

Worship is giving, not receiving (Hebrews 13:15). Worship is sacrifice! Worship is an offering! When one assembles with the saints and say they get nothing out of worship, what are they really saying? They have little to offer! Therefore, because their sacrifice is lacking they leave just as lacking. Our singing is a sacrifice! Our prayers are a sacrifice! Worship is completely God centered. He is the audience and is examining our hearts listening and looking at the sacrifice we offer. It is all the result of Jesus dying in our place. Maybe we need to ask what the death of Jesus means to us? What does it mean to God? Think about it!!!

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