



"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 – November 6, 2011

Heart to Heart...

Today the name "*Christian*" means little. It is used so loosely in our society that it has little meaning. We hear people speak of "*Christian radio*", "*Christian gatherings*", "*Christian concerts*", "*Christian television*" and "*Christian music*". People say they believe in God and Christ Jesus which makes them a "*Christian*." What really constitutes one being a "*Christian*" from the Lord's perspective? Let's investigate!

A true "*Christian*" is a disciple. A disciple is a learner and follower of the Lord and His teachings. They acknowledge Christ Jesus as their sin-bearer and are united with Him in baptism (Romans 6:3-6). A true "*Christian*" must know the real faith purpose of baptism! Baptism is where sins are forgiven in the name of the Lord and as a result of their forgiveness will have a great love and devotion toward their Lord. Their faith trusts Him. Their faith walks in His steps. Their faith gets direction from His word. A true "*Christian*" has submitted with all their heart to Jesus' Lordship. They love not only Christ, but Christ's body, the church. They express their love with Christ's body in worship and the study of His word.

What I have just described is a compiling of a totality of Scripture. There is no single verse, no single section of Scripture which exhaustively tells us what a "*Christian*" is and does. We can only come to understand the term by putting together clearly-stated truth from the whole New Testament. To do that, we must start with how one is saved!

A true "*Christian*" has laid hold of the hope of Christ. They aren't looking at how many religious things they are involved in or listen to. Their heart and actions belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. It's all about Him and what He has done for them. They are guilt free and share His grace and forgiveness toward others that are undeserving. They feast on His word as that is where they find their sustaining power. They are self-sacrificing as He sacrificed for them. They examine everything carefully to make certain they avoid the appearance of evil. They don't follow the world's idea of what they believe a "*Christian*" is because the world has reduced it to being simply religious and active.

The term "*Christian*" never came from the followers of Jesus. It came from the world who recognized them as following Jesus (Acts 11:26). We need to re-examine Scriptures to see if we really are a true "*Christian*" in Christ's world. Maybe we need to ask: would we want others to imitate our faith? Where would your faith lead others? Into Christ or activities? Do you know at what point one is really saved? Think about it!!!

Brent