

# Church of Christ

## ...Heart to Heart...

In Part I we saw that “*Amen*” is more than just a word said. It’s a spiritual response to the faithfulness and teachings of God. Is applause an appropriate response in worship or when one is baptized into Christ?

Clapping, for the most part, is an emotional expression of a wonderful moment. We see it in performances that captivate us as well as in other things. It’s a lot like saying, “Hurrah” in response to a victory. Here is where we need spiritual insight. The Lord is not trying to stop our emotions! The Lord is trying to get us to be a spiritual people rather than worldly, reacting and thinking like the world.

**“All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify.”** (I Cor. 10:23) There are things that are lawful, but that doesn’t mean it is profitable to do something. How do you know the difference between what is profitable and unprofitable? See if it edifies, builds up another person to be more like Christ. That’s the goal of God. If what is done does not “build up”, then it’s not profitable, even though it might be lawful. You might think something is all right to do, but someone else may be offended by those actions. What is the proper response in the eyes of God? **“So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.”** (Rom. 14:19) That’s what the Lord wants. He is trying to build a spiritual house (Eph. 2:19-22) and we need to follow Him in that building up. Rather than just react to an emotion because we are overcome, we need to consider how it will affect others. If it’s offensive to some (and clapping can be), love needs to be applied (Rom. 14:15). The Lord is trying to get us to work from the spiritual side of things rather than just go with what one feels. Love is a spiritual response and is what builds up others (I Cor. 8:1). The greatest danger that threatens the church is to bring the world’s attitudes and practices into our midst. The world doesn’t work from love, but selfish, emotional thinking. Things might be lawful, but if they don’t edify, it’s not a spiritual response. Our flesh says one thing and our flesh will take us deeper and deeper into things that aren’t profitable if we aren’t careful. Walking with the Lord is being spiritual; it is moving away from our flesh by allowing the Lord to have control within the heart. That means make sure what you do or don’t do doesn’t offend others around. **“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”** (I John 4:7) We need to move to a higher level in our walk with God.

“*Amen*” is recognition of God’s faithfulness and truth. I’ve never heard anyone offended by that. Clapping can offend those around us and tear them down spiritually. **“But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.”** (I Cor. 14:40) In light of what God is trying to do in us, you tell me, what is an appropriate response to the Lord? Think about it!!!

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