



Church of Christ

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204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

Heart to Heart...

Do you really know you are forgiven? Can you say, absolutely, without a doubt, your sins have been completely removed? That's a tough question and it takes an honest heart and a sincere faith to answer it. The first sign of forgiveness is love! As Jesus dealt with the lady who wiped His feet with her hair (Luke 7), He spoke these words in the presence of all: **"For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little."** (Luke 7:47) Forgiveness always breeds love! Love breeds kindness and tenderness. The unforgiven won't and can't love! When sin is present, love is absent. When love is absent, unforgiving attitudes prevail.

I've listened and watched people who call themselves Christians spew out hate, hurtful words and an unforgiving spirit like water poured out of a glass. I've seen Christians, who claim they want the best for another, but fill with bitterness and wrath at the turn of a hat. You see sin and death at it's height. I've listened to husbands and wives have hateful outbursts at one another, not talking to each other for days, and not even aware of their spiritual dilemma. I sat in horror as I watched a divorce hearing between a Christian husband and wife, listening to their venom of hate, bitterness swelling up and pouring out. Even to this day, they both think they have a relationship with the Lord but hate each other! When sin is present, love is absent! My mind goes back to the cross, looking at the hate and hurtful words thrown at Jesus. His name was cursed! He was made fun of and ridiculed. He had feelings too, don't we know that? Yet I can't get over the words that fell from His lips, **"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."** (Luke 23:34) In the height of hate, He asked for forgiveness. When love is present, forgiveness is there! When sin is present, Christ is forgotten! There will be no unforgiving attitudes or unforgiven people in heaven!! Those who are forgiven little, love little.

Now, let's start this again. Do you really know you are forgiven? Can you say, absolutely, without a doubt, your sins have been completely removed? What do you practice, love or bitterness? Do you have resentful feelings toward another? The impact of Jesus and the forgiveness given us is seen in our actions and attitudes toward others. **"So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you."** (Col. 3:12-13) Where's your love? Do you need to go to the cross of Jesus? Think about it!!!

Brent