



Church of Christ

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204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

Heart to Heart...

People want change from the ordinary. We hear of it all the time. In the political arena we seem to be bombarded with this idea of change. We've seen presidential elections run on change. People want something new, different and exciting. It happens to the church as well. People grow tired of the same thing and start calling for change, something new to stimulate us, to bring back the fire we once had that has faded. Change the services seems to be what's new because many are wanting out of the ruts that seem to have been created.

This change idea and mind set is nothing new among the people of God. Just look at Malachi and you can see it. **"You also say, 'My, how tiresome it is!' 'And you disdainfully sniff at it', says the Lord of hosts, 'and you bring what was taken by robbery and what is lame or sick; so you bring the offering! Should I receive that from you hand?' says the Lord."** They had gotten into a rut and their problem was they were tired of the same old offerings, with the same old things, the same old ways and the same styles. Their real problem? Their heart! They had lost sight of the Lord Jehovah, their God! They had become lazy and lacked a sincere faith toward the Lord.

You come to the book of Hebrews and you find the same there. **"Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing."** (Heb. 5:11) The Hebrew writer wanted to take them into deeper things but they had become dull of hearing, lazing in their spiritual hearts. When one becomes dull of hearing, they become sluggish is their approach to the things of God (Heb. 6:11-12).

Today, many in Christ are the same way. Brethren want change thinking that changing the externals will bring a new, vibrant attitude with them. Everyone gets excited when change in externals occur. The only problem is externals are shorted lived. Once the new wears off, you're back to coming up with something new again. We can change the externals, and never touch the heart. You can try to create a mood setting but you cannot create the heart. In Acts 15:9, Paul said the hearts were cleansed by faith. To change things for the sake of change has no merit. Changing our worship to get people excited is to take attention off of Christ and put the attention on us. We need to be careful that our feelings and opinions aren't what is driving us, but a sincere faith from a heart to do His will. Christ is the only One that can bring about a real change. He alone can change the heart, which will change our attitudes and desires and bring us into a loving, living relationship with God. Only love from a cleansed heart can create *"singing with thankfulness"* to a Savior we adore by faith. Anything less is just man made, self deceiving and distracts from the truth." **"Not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."** (Rom. 12:11). The only change God calls for is a change of heart. Think about it!!!

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