



# Church of Christ

March 9, 2003

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## Heart to Heart...

Many are ignorant of God's word and His desires. Sometimes those in Christ are some of the most lacking, which is sad. Nothing is more revealing than hearing those in Christ devalue the church of our Lord. How do they do that? They claim their relationship to Christ but have little to do with His body, the church. They profess to love Jesus, but have little desire or understanding for God's church. Brethren, one cannot have Christ without the church and one cannot have the church without Christ. The church is God's master plan. It is not manmade or man maintained. That's called a denomination. Christ founded His church. There is a very intimate relationship between Christ and His church. There should be the same between members of His body. Let's observe some simple, but revealing teachings about this relationship: (1) *Christ is the head of the church.* (Eph. 5:22-23) One cannot have a relationship with the head unless they are attached to the body. (2) *Christ is the foundation of the church.* (I Cor. 3:11) His church, which He is the head, is founded upon His teachings and His word. He upholds it! (3) *Christ is the Savior of the body, the church.* (Eph. 5:23) It has been said, "The church never saved anyone!" That's true, but Christ is the One who saves and those saved are the church! The church are those who have been baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. They are in a relationship with Him, as He has saved them from their sins. (Acts 2:47) A relationship with Christ produces a relationship with His saved ones. (4) *Christ loves the church and gave Himself for it.* (Eph. 5:25) We place value on things according to what we pay for them. What value did Christ place on His body, the church? What did it cost Him? How serious of a problem is it to think little of His church? (5) *Christ purchased the church with His own blood.* (Acts 20:28) To think little of those tied to Jesus (the church), says what you reveal about His love and understanding of His blood.

One cannot love the Lord and have little to do with His body! The church isn't a social function or a place of entertainment. It's those for whom Christ gave His life for. It's a spiritual house, built by Jesus, presented to God to offer up spiritual sacrifices because we do belong to Him and are attached. (I Pet. 2:5) To show little love and concern for God's people is to show little love and concern for God Himself. (I John 4:20) What makes one want to reach out to the saved and be one with them? The death of Jesus. That's our common ground, our purpose for being one together. If one is still in their sins, they will find common ground with those lost in their sins. Sin is their common ground. For those who have been forgiven, cleansed and brought blameless into the presence of God because of the cleansing blood of Jesus, we find fellowship with each other, wanting to help encourage each other and reach out to those who are separated from Him. How do you feel about the church, the saved ones of Christ? Think about it!!!

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