

Church of Christ

...Heart to Heart...

God's holy word speaks to us in Christ, "As a result, we are no longer to be children tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ." (Eph. 4:14-15) We are to "*grow up in all aspects into Him!*" What prevents our growing up into Christ? Ignorance of the truth of God's word. Rather than listening to God, following His truth as taught from His word, many are like children! They get caught up in every shiny thing that catches their attention, someone's personality that "wow's" them or the sweetness of disposition. Others get caught up in "new ideas" that change with the wind and get carried away with it. It amazes me how easily people are led astray.

Many ideas of religion offer superstition and plain silliness. Many denominations take weddings/funerals and turn them into worship. They administer sacraments. The Scriptures know nothing of such things. With the Lord's Supper they have transubstantiation, meaning changing the bread/fruit of the vine into the literal body and blood of Jesus. The Scriptures know nothing about this. Man made it up. Our religious culture is confused with tongues, demons, angels, personal experiences and the list goes on and on, all in the name of the Lord. Preachers are called "Reverend, Pastor, Doctor, Holy Apostle, Head Pastor, Most Holy Reverend" along with many other titles. The religious clergy wears pompous clothes and crosses around their necks to gain much recognition. Women are preachers, leading worship services, looking very spiritual, which the Scriptures explicitly condemn (I Tim. 2:12/Matt. 23).

In the church of our Lord, we too have been touched with the notions of man. Many, especially the larger congregations, have fallen into the false ideas of what God wants. Scheming and abuse of Scriptures is used to get people to follow and apply them to what fits their desires. Some have "traditional worship" while others have "contemporary worship". You now have a choice! The Scriptures speak nothing of this. Don't connect God's holy worship with human "contemporary" activity! (I'm not trying to be offensive, but where do such ideas come from?) Man cannot speak for God and His holiness unless *we make God in our image!*

We need to make sure we hold to the Scriptures and allow God to speak through them to us. We need to humbly follow, listen and gain insight so we aren't carried away with every wind of change. Stand strong in the Lord and the might of His word. Read your Bible, study it and grow up into Him! Human error is all around and only by the word of God will we be able to know the difference. Think about it!!!

Brent