

Church of Christ

... Heart to Heart ...

“I’m not coming back to church here because there are too many hypocrites!” Have you ever heard statements like that? People who make such statements reveal a lot about their insight to the Lord and His church.

The church is not a building or a denomination. It’s the people who have submitted to the Lordship of Jesus, been baptized into His death and desire to follow His word fully. The church is the saved; they are the forgiven because of the death of Jesus. Jesus means everything to them and they see they are each tied to one another because of Jesus. The church comes together every first day of the week to proclaim His death in His Supper. The loaf we break makes us reflect on Him and His body (the church). The cup reminds us of the covenant with God Himself (Heb. 8:12). The church is a lover of truth and cares for the lost souls around, recognizing that without Jesus, all are eternally condemned. The church cares about what is taught and believed.

Some, who claim to be a member of the Lord’s church, have little interest in assembling with His body. Maybe they have been hurt by someone, so they condemn the whole. That doesn’t mean Christ isn’t real to the whole; it doesn’t mean all His followers hurt others.

Some, who claim to be members of the Lord’s church, don’t see any importance in assembling and praising the Lord for His mercy, because they don’t want to submit their lives fully to Christ and they know they will be called to do that.

Some, who claim to be members of the Lord’s church, have no interest in encouraging others. It doesn’t matter to them if God’s people are encouraged or discouraged. They simply get nothing out of anything. Their heart is somewhere else.

The church, the body of Christ, those saved people immersed into His name know their Lord and their Lord knows them. Because someone claims to be a member doesn’t mean they are a living part of the body of Christ. The living body is the church. They are one with Him and that results in oneness with each other. Those attached say, “Thank you” and honor His name for all He has done for them. Their expressions of love come from their heart. Yes, the saved assemble with the saints because they understand they are each a vital member of Christ’s body, and the body can’t be without all its parts and be whole. For those who make excuses or lack desire, until they humble themselves from their heart, excuses and condemnation is all they will offer and when they do assemble, it will be for wrong reasons. What’s worse? They won’t be with the saved (the church) in heaven. Think about it!!!