

# Church of Christ

## ... Heart to Heart ...

We are in Christ! If you have been baptized for the forgiveness of your sins in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38), you are in Christ. As a result, you have been transferred from a domain of darkness into the kingdom of Christ, where you possess forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:13-14). I've said all that to say this, we no longer walk like the lost world around us walks! Those outside Christ have no relationship or insight to the things of God. They are without the Spirit and excluded from God's life (Eph. 4:17-18).

Take a look at the tsunami aid relief going on in the world. Every day there is more and more news about this one and that one giving money for the relief efforts. It is broadcast all over the papers and networks. Jesus, in instructing those who are in fellowship with Him, warned: "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven." (Matt. 6:1) To do things to be noticed by others gains no recognition from the Lord! He further instructs, "So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full." (Matt. 6:2) When people want recognition for what they give and do, they have all the reward they will ever get! If one wants the praise of men, then just sound off about what you do and you will have all the praise you want, but when that praise is finished, there is nothing more! Jesus doesn't want us walking or acting like outsiders. We are insiders! What does that mean? "But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you." (Matt. 6:3-4) Our relationship and reward lay with our Father. It's wonderful to see our brethren give and help without sounding a trumpet and wanting praise from people!

What do we learn? Do things for the sake of the Father's name. Walk humbly in Jesus, knowing He will take notice of what we do or don't do for His name's sake. Don't follow the world's thinking or actions, as they are in direct conflict with the teachings of God and this time of relief effort is showing it. The choice is clear: you can have your reward now or you can have it in the future. Think about it!!!

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