

# Church of Christ

## ...Heart to Heart...

All of us have been hurt by someone at one time or another. We have felt the sting of a good friend that betrays us or of someone doing us wrong for no apparent reason. The worst part for us is to allow the hurt and pain to stay in our hearts and create spiritual problems between us and the Lord. It can happen easily. People get an opportunity to speak of some past event in which someone did them wrong or turned on them, and here comes the pain and we speak of it openly and freely. All the time, we have been deceiving ourselves by holding on to bitter feelings. We claim, "I'm not bitter!" but given just the right opportunity, it becomes evident, as those feelings get revealed. It reaches the point that some won't even attend a Bible class because of ill feelings toward a person. What's worse, our relationship with the Lord has been deteriorating all the time and we aren't even aware because bitterness, resentments and hurt feelings blind us to reality. It's called spiritual decay!

Did Jesus feel betrayal? Did He go through personal hurts? What did He do? Harbor them? No, He willingly let them go and did good to those who hurt Him. He even washed Judas' feet; the one He knew would betray Him. How close are we, really, to Christ in our walk?

We get a good insight how we look before God when bitterness and resentments are harbored in our hearts, as we look at Psalms 73. Read the whole chapter, but pay close attention to verses 21-22. "When my heart was embittered and I was pierced within, then I was senseless and ignorant; I was like a beast before You." Bitterness and resentments blind us to our real spiritual conditions. One becomes "*senseless*" in the presence of God. They become "*ignorant*"; not realizing it will cost them their souls. We are instructed to put away all bitterness, wrath and anger (Eph. 4:31). We are told to forgive as the Lord forgave us (Col. 3:13).

Why is it so difficult to forgive and let go of hurts caused by others toward us? Because we don't want to let them go without making sure they are held accountable! We cry, "Justice! Accountability!" The Lord asks, "What if I called for that with you?" The real question is, will we forgive and let go of hurts of the past? To refuse is to condemn our souls. To embrace Christ and His death, forgiving as He forgave us, is to take hold of life and bring His power into our inner man.

To hold to hurts leaves us in a terrible position with the Lord. There will be no spiritual growth, much less a relationship with the Lord. It takes a good and honest heart to walk with the Lord, letting go of hurts and disappointments, and embracing those who offend you. How's your heart? Think about it!!!

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