

Church of Christ

...Heart to Heart...

Redemption is a wonderful thing! “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.” (Eph. 1:7) What is **redemption**? It literally means “to buy back.” What did we have to be bought back from? Our enslavement to sin and its power. Sin was our ruler, our master and through the death of Jesus, He **redeemed** us. Our **redemption** was a high price. It was at the cost of His blood, His life!

Redemption calls us into a holy response to God. It is our motivation to do right. Why should wives submit to their husbands as head (Eph. 5:23)? Because they have been **redeemed**! The husband is called to love his wife because the Lord gave Himself up for the church, the **redeemed** (Eph. 5:25). Why should we forgive another who has sinned against us? Because God, through the **redeeming** work of Christ’s blood, has forgiven us (Eph. 4:32). Why should we be accepting of one another? Because of Christ’s **redemption**, He accepted us (Rom. 15:7)! Why are servants called to obey their masters, even those who are unreasonable? Because of the suffering of Christ, His **redeeming** blood on our behalf (I Pet. 2:21-25)! Why are we to look to others as more important than ourselves? Because Christ, in His death to **redeem** us, thought us as more important than Himself (Phil. 2:3-8)! Why does God ask us to live our lives in holiness and reverence? Because He called us through His Son’s precious blood (**redemption**) to Himself (I Pet. 1:14-18)! Why do we need to move away from our own selves and sinfulness? Because we died **with** and have been buried **with** Christ who died to destroy sin in us (Rom. 6)! Why do we love one another? Because He laid down His life (**redemption**) to love us (I John 3:16)!

In all these things, we aren’t called to live with good behavior because we are good people. We aren’t called to do right because we are special. We are called to do these things because we have been **redeemed**! We have been made to be His people! “For you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” (I Pet. 2:10) Everything we do, every thing we have been called to be should be directly tied to **redemption**. We have been bought back with the precious blood of Christ. We earn nothing! It’s all a gift and our heart response to that gift. Why do you live the way you do? Think about it!!!

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