



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – November 7, 2010

Heart to Heart...

We are the body of Christ. Do you believe that? Each one that was baptized into Jesus was united with Jesus and placed in His body. Paul reminded the body of Christ at Ephesus to ***"be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."*** (Ephesians 4:3) If we are walking in fellowship with the Lord we will rally around His teachings to build around this oneness of the Christ and His body. We will exercise our faith in diligence to preserve the unity of the Spirit.

He was a new Christian thrilled to be in Christ. One evening he and his wife went to supper with members of Christ's body who were "more mature." This new brother in Christ left the meal and the evening wondering what happened and disappointed. The so-called "mature" members spoke evil of other members of the body and he couldn't understand why they would do such. It left him wondering if this was what the Lord was about! Do we really believe we are the body of Christ?

Our failure to be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in Christ's body comes about by not recognizing God! God placed each member, weak or strong, in His body where He desired them to be (I Corinthians 12:18). If we are looking to God, we would realize that another part of the body is precious and covered by the blood of Jesus. *As each member of Christ's body relates to God, they will relate to one another.* When members of the body 'run-down' another part of the body, how are they relating to God? If we are to be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit, should we be willing to bear and help those with whom we may not see eye to eye with? Does Jesus? Love "bears all things." (I Corinthians 13:7) The word "bear" means to cover not expose!

We need to make absolutely certain that we are glorifying God with one voice (Romans 15:6). There are weak members and strong members. There are those who fail at times, certain ones might act superior or arrogant and need to be warned, some get taken down by sin so easily but that should make us work much harder in view of the Lord to encourage and keep the unity of Spirit. When words are spoken to children in Christ about other members of the body, what are you doing to that individual? Are you helping their faith grow toward the Lord? Once again, how you relate to God will show itself how you relate to the body. If Christ is real, His body will be real to you. ***"Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God."*** (Romans 15:7). Do you sincerely believe you are part of the body of Christ? If you do, how are you acting on that belief? Think about it!!!

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