



"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 27, 2011

Heart to Heart...

How seriously do we really take our relationship with the Lord? John says: ***"No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him."*** (I John 3:6) If we abide, (i.e. take up residence) and live, in Jesus, what will we not do? Sin! But everyone sins. John is speaking of practice! ***Practice!*** (See I John 3:4-7.) It's all about our practice! ***"No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in Him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."***(I John 3:9)

If we are living in Jesus our practice won't be sin! Our practice will be the same as Jesus because His seed abides in us! We will stumble in our lives but in our stumbling we have an Advocate and we are honest and confess quickly (I John 2:1-2). Sin will not be our practice! It will be an exception, not the norm.

To abide in and be born of God, our fellowship with Him, drawing from His nature will always lead us to loving one another. We know we are to love one another but our *practice* is sometimes less than love. God has our best interest, our salvation at heart. That should be our desire for one another. I want people saved! I want my family saved! I want those who dislike me saved! I want my enemies saved! Jesus wants all to be saved! When we don't respond in love and walk in His love, what are we *practicing*? A non-caring attitude here! A cold shoulder there! Is that what love does and salvation means to us? Is that what it means to the Lord?

We are in Christ Jesus and we should walk like Christ Jesus (I John 2:6). How did He walk? In love (Ephesians 5:1-2)! Love wants people saved! Love has tenderness and compassion, not grudging attitudes. Love bears with one another's weaknesses and forgives ***"each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone"*** (Colossians 3:12-13).

Let me ask again, how seriously do we really take our relationship with the Lord? I pray very seriously because eternity is hanging in the balance. How we deal with one another here reveals where we abide daily. How we treat one another reveals if we know God. Knowing God is eternal life (John 17:3)! ***"By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother."*** (I John 3:10) Think about it!!!

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