



"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 – July 1, 2012

Heart to Heart...

People play a lot of games with sin. Cover-ups and self-deception are so easy to do. One doesn't just 'ease' out of their sins. One doesn't make deals or trade-offs to rid their sins. Sin must be broken away from clean and completely by repentance and faith in Jesus or one stays in their sins!

When one repents, they break away instantly by doing right by the Lord with all their heart. There must be a whole-hearted approach in their walk with God. To say we repent of our sins and not embrace the things of God with all our heart and attitude, is not repentance. Vine's Dictionary of Biblical Words calls repentance: "*to change one's mind or purpose, always, in the N.T., involving a change for the better, an amendment.*"

Jesus gives us good insight as to what happens when one repents with a sincere faith. When one breaks away from their sins, it leaves a void and empty spot in the heart where sin once dwelt. "***Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.'***" (Luke 11:24) Sin wants to make a return! "***And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order.***" (Luke 11:25) Sincere repentance brings about a cleansing of the heart. Notice the heart is now swept clean and in order. "***Then it goes and takes along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first.***" (Luke 11:26) When one repents of their sins, there has to be something put in the void. That is called the righteousness of God. The void must be filled by putting God's ways and word in the heart. Failure to do so will lead to a much worse situation in their lives. The house of the person will become clean for a while, but because it is left empty, it becomes occupied with sin again and they are worse off spiritually than when they began.

We've seen it. People repent only to return to the paths of sin. To bring them back to repentance is much more difficult the second or third time. Sin has grown stronger in their heart and hardness results. Each time, the hardness makes their state of being worse than the previous time. That's why some can never be reached again. The Hebrew writer tells us this way: "***Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.***" (Hebrews 3:12) We need to always be humble and repentant, filling our hearts with the things of God. Otherwise, a lot of things could be working and not for our good. Think about it!!!

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