



"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 – June 12, 2016**

## Heart to Heart...

Religion is in! Religion has always been in. In the days of Jesus he came into a world steeped in religion. The Jews had theirs. The Samaritan's (half-Jew) had theirs. The world of idols and temples were scattered all over.

We fast forward today. Religion is in more than ever. We see people post in the media outlets speaking something of God or Christ Jesus asking you to post this on your page if you're a believer. As I travel I come across many different and new religious groups. Look at some of these so called "churches": *New Victory Church, The Assembly of Grace Church, Mountain Top Church, The Family of Life Church, The Awaken Church, Christ's Way Church, End Time Harvest Church, Fruit of the Spirit Church, God's Miracle House, New Life Ministries, United in Peace Church, Voice of Deliverance Church, Water of Life Church, The Celebration Church, The Power to Believe Church, The Life Changing Church.* These are just a few I have run across in my travels. They are more prone in the larger cities. Religion is in and it's more in to belong to some contemporary named group!

Some of these ideas were being addressed by Paul in Romans 2:17-29. The Jews were relying on their name, their heritage and the teachings from the Law. It condemned them for they were not practicing the things the Lord would want while condemning others. In Corinth, the city was filled with temples and idols, objects and places to worship. Some in the church were being drawn into some of this that many of them were converted out of. It was offensive to the Lord! Religion has always been in but we are called out of religion to the Lord Jesus!

It's easy to have a title or associate with a name and call Jesus your Lord. How did Jesus feel about this? ***"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"*** (Luke 6:46) That's the real question. But it gets bigger: ***"Not everyone who say to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter."*** (Matthew 7:21) There is way too much talk and not enough believing by following the will the Father! The majority have little insight to the will of God.

Teaching the will of the Lord, following His teachings in truth and doing what He asks is not at the heart of most. People are picking and choosing what they want to follow and how they want to serve. Some Scripture is held to but when something that crosses their path they don't want to hear, it is quickly dismissed. Everything is about the love of God, unconditionally. We know God is love but to love God is to follow His word in every way to the best of our ability. There is no picking and choosing this or that. The redeeming work of Jesus was not only love shown to us but to transform us inwardly. True Christianity is about us transforming the heart so we would become more like Jesus. Today's religion speaks to believe in this or that to our liking, whistling all the way but offers nothing to transform from the power of God in Christ Jesus. How about this, let's just be the church! Wasn't that Jesus' intention in Matthew 16:18: ***"I will build My church!"***? Think about it!!!

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