



Fairgrounds Road
C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

MESSENGER

“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 – January 29, 2017

Heart to Heart...

We love our “*families*.” When we speak of “*family*” it carries a special significance and we want others to know about our “*family*.” They are dear to each of us and we want others to see and hear.

God is the Creator of “*family*.” From the beginning, after the fall of man, God had in mind a spiritual “*family*” (Genesis 3:15). God made a covenant with Abraham about a spiritual “*family*” (Genesis 22:18). Galatians 3:16 speaks of that spiritual “*family*”, and it would be the seed of Christ. In Jesus, God planned the redemption of mankind because sin created another “*family*” that was separate from God’s intention. Jesus pointed out clearly to the Jews that argued and wouldn’t listen to His word, that they were of another “*family*” which the devil had fathered (John 8:44). Upon the death and resurrection of Jesus, we were united with Him in baptism and our birth into the “*family*” of God began. We have a different Father and a brother in Jesus in this “*family*” (Hebrews 2:10-11). It is a spiritual “*family*” and our relationship is based upon Jesus Christ.

Jesus calls those one with Him brothers. The term ‘brothers’ literally means “from the same womb.” We have been born of the same womb. One Father, one Lord Jesus Christ and baptism into His body equals His “*family*.” We once were not God’s children but of the other “*family*” but God brought us to Himself through Jesus and were adopted into this new, redeemed “*family*” of life! We are children of God (Romans 8:16), members of one another (Romans 12:4-5) and heirs (Galatians 3:29). This spiritual “*family*” rallies around one faith, one calling (Ephesians 4:4-6) and is united in one purpose and heart (Philippians 2:1-2). In fact, this “*family*” is called God’s temple and the Spirit’s dwelling. The warning was taught: ***“If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.”*** (I Corinthians 3:16-17)

Only this “*family*” will be brought to heaven. Others will be with a different “*family*” as they refuse to submit and enjoy God’s “*family*.” The question we must ask ourselves: How do you relate to the heavenly Father? That is shown in the way you relate to His spiritual “*family*” presently. People that abuse, speak against and attack God’s “*family*” is what the other “*family*” will do. They are at odds with one another and God won’t have any of it in His “*family*.”

Just like our physical “*families*” that we love and enjoy, our spiritual “*family*” should have the same impact because we are going to spend eternity together with God and His “*family*.” Listen to God’s voice: ***“If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.”*** (I John 4:20-21) It makes you wonder why anyone would walk away from God’s spiritual “*family*” as you are withdrawing from what God has born. If we aren’t going to love and help this “*family*” of God, that means the only other “*family*” we will be part of and joined to is an earthly “*family*” and it will be under judgment for all eternity. Think about it!!!

Brent