



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

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Sunday – April 2, 2017

## Heart to Heart...

Let's deal with simplicity of the truth. The very basis of our salvation revolves around us being in Christ Jesus. *“In Christ!” “In Christ!”* People speak they come to believe *“in Christ Jesus”* as Lord, their Lord. This is where many, many miss it and it needs to be in our ears and on our heart. To believe upon the Lord Jesus must bring us to Him with a response from faith. It's not about words of receiving Him as Lord in your heart. It's about uniting with Him! One can have faith in the Lord but if there is no uniting with Him there is no oneness with Him. Without that uniting there is no severance from your sin!

Paul speaks in Romans 6:3-4: ***“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”*** Listen carefully to the teaching of Scripture. To come accepting Jesus as your personal Savior and never being one with Him is not being saved. Being baptized into Christ Jesus is where you and Jesus come together and it is at no other point or time. It is baptism that puts one *“in Christ!”* It is at baptism that one contacts His death. It is in His death that we contact His blood. It is at baptism that one is raised with Him. It is at baptism that puts you to walking in newness of life, His life. Baptism is faith responding!

Peter spoke that day to the nation of Israel when asked, *“What shall we do?”* (Acts 2:37) The words of the Lord rang clearly: ***“Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”*** (Acts 2:38) To believe Jesus as Lord and personal Savior means you must repent, turning from your sinful ways/practices and be baptized, not sprinkled, not poured, not a baptismal Sunday service but repenting from your sinfulness and being immersed in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins. It is this point and time that forgiveness is granted by the Lord! No one is in a relationship with the Lord without grasping this by faith! It is this time and point that one receives the Holy Spirit. No one prays the Holy Spirit into their heart or asks His admittance. It's all connected upon us entering Jesus, being one with Jesus. This is what it means to be *“in Christ!”*

Paul taught the Galatian brethren: ***“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourself with Christ.”*** (Galatians 3:27) Christ is our clothing and that only happens when one comes by faith being immersed into Him.

To be baptized into the death of Jesus is believing His death is for our lives. Our lives of sin and separation from the Lord are buried with Him so we can be raised one with Him to walk in His newness! Forgiveness of our sins, the receiving the Holy Spirit and clothed with Jesus Christ is based on our faith response to Him by immersion into His death.

There are too many trying to live for the Lord but never being united with Him. There are too many who believe they are one with the Lord and never having put faith in Him by being immersed into Him. There is no dying so there is no burial. There is no burial so there is no raising. Lives are still lived in sin while falsely believing they are "*in Christ*." There is little gain. People without this teaching and understanding are still in their sins! Yes, one can come to speaking faith in the Lord Jesus but until they repent and put on Jesus by immersion into His name their faith is null and void, not being led to salvation. The Lord cannot enter into a relationship with anyone as long as the relationship to sin hasn't been severed. This is the complete action of faith. This is what the Lord calls us to. This is serious. Salvation is grand. And the Lord is the One who determines it all. We simply must believe it and respond. Why were you baptized? Think about it!!!

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