



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 – June 18, 2017

Heart to Heart...

There are two types of ignorance. One type is someone who lacks education or skill. The other is an ignorance that come from lack of insight and understanding God. Because of the ignorance that comes from lack of insight and understanding God, people make foolish and harmful decisions with no idea of the consequences they are about to face with God. ***“Being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart.”*** (Ephesians 4:18) The ignorance that is in such a person is the result of a hard heart. They not only are ignorant about God and His ways but they are excluded from God’s life. I once heard of a person that had no desire to worship the Lord and honor Him in their daily life say they are on good terms with the Lord. They spoke how they had worked everything out with the Lord. How dark is the darkness of such a hard heart!

When people harden their heart, they literally push God to the side in their thinking, making God to be what they want Him to be for them and the results are disastrous. God responds to such hardness and ignorance by giving that individual a depraved mind! ***“And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper.”*** (Romans 1:28) People that don’t want God telling them how to live do not realize God gives them what they want. They want to approach life in their own way with their desires leading them, God will help them find that path. He removes His influence and lets you have your way. God is a giver and He gives to each one what they want. The problem in all this is they end up with depravity of the mind! That depravity shows up in their life by the way they live, the choices they make and the direction they head while all the time they believe all is good between them and the Lord. Hard-hearted people have no life from God. They do not love God so there will be no love for His church. They only love themselves and their personal choices of what pleases them. If anyone gets in their way, the anger and hatred will come out. God gives them over completely to what they want. They walk in a world of sin and death caused by ignorance. They cannot see the pain they cause others, the choices of destruction they make because the hardness of their heart won’t allow anything from God to change them (John 3:19-21).

The worst part of this kind of ignorance is the death of Jesus means nothing to them. Just words! The death of Jesus has no impact, creates no faith in them so they make God what they

want Him to be for themselves. That's called *an idol!!!* We need to come to a true knowledge of God and know and understand His ways. We aren't allowed to make up our own ideas and end up saved in the end. That's not going to happen. Ignorance is killing so many!

Peter exhorts us: "***As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your behavior.***" (I Peter 1:14-15) How's your heart? Think about it!!!

Brent