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“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 – December 3, 2017**

## **Heart to Heart...**

Do you realize you're supposed to sing? Many may not give any thought to this or say they can't sing well so they sit idly during singing, smacking gum, arms folded in a bored fashion, looking around with no idea of what is going on. Let's examine this whole thought process, well it's more of a faith process.

Singing is not and should never be a talent show! Too many times the religious world turns singing (and other things they miss like salvation) into a show for others to hear beautiful voices or an entertainment venue where people come as consumers to listen. How religion is defining too much of our thinking. It is also true that singing is not something we justify ourselves as being right with God.

The Scriptures teach two commands of the Lord in Ephesians 5:18-19: (1) Do not get drunk with wine! That is an easy thing to accomplish. (2) Be filled with the Spirit. The term “filled” means to allow to influence. To be filled with the Spirit, to allow the Spirit to influence us begins to teach us in verse 19. By speaking to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. By singing. By making melody in your heart to the Lord. By giving thanks to God in the name of Jesus. By submitting to one another in reverence to Christ. (Ephesians 5:20-21) Looking carefully at these participles we will gain nothing from the Spirit unless we speak, sing, make melody and give thanks to the Lord with all our hearts. Being filled with the Spirit has nothing to do with a feeling that comes over you when your favorite song is sung. To be influenced by the Spirit, the teaching gained from speaking, singing, making melody, giving thanks and submitting, is where and how he operates during this time.

The Colossian letter speaks to the same idea in Colossians 3:16 where Paul speaks: ***“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”*** The word of the Lord, the message of Christ Jesus and what He has done for us should lead us to teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom. By singing the psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with thankfulness to God allows the word of Christ to be part of us. Our singing is reflecting on the message of the Lord, speaking that message and allowing the Spirit to influence our minds and hearts! It's all for the glory of God and it builds up the church. It is never about the beauty of voices but the words we say and sing. It comes from a heart of thanks.

When a congregation moves from participation to performance and beauty of voices, it stops the purpose of God and what He wants for us. When a congregation watches individuals perform, it misses the complete purpose of the Lord. We should all be participating in something that God designed and promised to fill us with His Spirit and allowing the words of Christ to richly dwell in us. Why do you sing? Why do you not sing? We might want to pay close attention to the Lord and His word to see if we are living by faith allowing His Spirit to fill us. Think about it!!!

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