



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 – February 25, 2018

Heart to Heart...

For some it is the most difficult task to obtain. It's so difficult that many do not realize what is happening. Things are so natural to them and it's the way they have gone about life there is no awareness. It can deteriorate relationships and affect our faith. It can push people away from you. What is this you might ask? LISTENING MORE AND TALKING LESS!

People don't listen but they want to speak. Listening can be very difficult because someone says something and it stirs us to want to chime in with something that we have gone through or are going through. Talkers say so many things they aren't even aware of how they come across to others. Some people seem compelled to talk! ***“When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.”*** (Proverbs 10:19) Keep talking and you're going to sin. It's unavoidable. Fools talk without restraints. ***“But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger.”*** (James 1:19) Many can't apply these Scriptures because they can't hear! Pay close attention in your conversations with others. Whenever they speak are you really listening or already thinking about what you're going to say? Too many times in conversations we turn it to things about us!! It's all about what we went through or difficulties we have encountered or are presently encountering. Very seldom do talkers inquire about others. Sometimes the one you are speaking with might have a heart of pain but the talking keeps you from finding out.

Jesus speaking with His disciples told about the parable of the sower. He ends the parable with these words: ***“Therefore take care how you listen.”*** (Luke 8:18) How one listens is the key. Listening is the key to not misunderstanding. Too many times when something is being spoken, we get hung up on some words and that's what stays with us. We are too eager to speak, and therefore never hear the whole so our understanding can come out wrong. The next phase is that conversation is spoken to others with a skewed meaning. ***“Take care of what you listen to.”*** (Mark 4:24) What do you listen to?

“Guard your steps as you go to the house of God and draw near to listen rather than offer the sacrifice of fools: for they do not know they are doing evil. Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God for God is in heaven and you are on the earth. Therefore let your words be few.” (Ecclesiastes 5:1-2) Great words of teaching from God and it needs to translate into our daily lives. Do you really want to grow spiritually? How well do you listen? How quick do you listen? Think about it!!!

Brent