



“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 – January 6, 2019**

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

Today more and more people are claiming to be ‘spiritual’ but not in organized religion. They find God and experience God in His nature. From the gentle breeze, to majestic mountains and walks in the woods they feel close to God. They consider themselves Christian in some sense of the word but wanting little to do with organized religion. In other words, they don’t want the church and see little benefit in Scripture. They want ‘spiritual experiences’ while the teachings of Jesus are pushed away.

God has revealed Himself in creation (Romans 1:18-23). Creation does not bring anyone to God nor cleanse them of their sins. It reveals there is a God and His power while calling man to seek for Him (Acts 14:16-17/Acts 17:24-31). As one observes creation, they may be struck with the awe of a sight or the quietness of a forest but that’s doesn’t bring you to knowing God. It brings you to realizing there is a God of such wonder and power; and we need to seek Him. Creation is a bad place to stop if one is seeking God!

Others claim to be ‘spiritual’ through their personal experiences and it’s their personal experiences they claim show them God. There was a young man living with his girlfriend and he believed himself ‘spiritual’ as he claimed he experienced God’s love through the love of his girlfriend. Fornication wasn’t part of his thinking and God is against all forms of fornication as no fornicators or adulterers will be in God’s kingdom (I Corinthians 6:9-10). One can never come to know God through personal experiences.

What is this thing called ‘spiritual but not in organized religion?’ It is impossible to be ‘spiritual’ without true religion as God explains Himself through Scripture. Those who think or try to figure out God through nature or personal experiences are not spiritual at all. They are physical and relying on the physical to teach them spiritual. Paul spoke of himself and the apostles: *“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we speak, not in words*

*taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.”* (I Corinthians 2:12-13) The teachings that came from the apostles came from God not man and were related in spiritual thoughts and words! The conclusion: ***“But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.”*** (I Corinthians 6:14) One cannot come to know God through nature or by natural means. The only way to experience true ‘spirituality’ is through Jesus Christ and His teachings!

It was Jesus who built His church and He organized it the way it would be. It was Jesus who gave His word to His apostles to go into all the world teaching and declaring the truth about God. ***“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”*** (II Timothy 3:16) Nature cannot bring one face to face with the Lord and confront us with His will. Experiences cannot teach about the holiness of God and what He calls us to Himself through Jesus Christ. Nature cannot cleanse you of your sins. There has never been one person walking with God finding Him in nature! Ignoring Scripture is ignoring God (John 14:23-24). Too many are seeking their own desire and their own approach to God. ***“There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”*** (Proverbs 14:12) Jesus said no one will come to God except through Him. The Spirit of God dwells within His church so to distance oneself from God’s administration (it literally means “the law of the house” – Ephesians 1:10) is to distance themselves from the Christ who died for mankind to bring us to God. Think about it!!!

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