



"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 – September 15, 2019**

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

How much of a difference does Jesus make in your life? Have you thought about it? Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, claiming a relationship with the Lord and the church divides, marriages crumble, arguments between one another, bitterness, hardness of heart, unforgiving attitudes can abound at times in the lives of those who claim Jesus Christ as their Lord. Many times, you see it in families. How much of a difference does Jesus make?

Sometimes there are those who pursue their own ideas or want to press their ideas and the next thing we know, people part ways in a huff. Words fly out of their mouths to let others know their displeasure, even to the point of saying they will have nothing to do with certain ones or for the whole church. They have been taking the Supper with all this going on not even aware that they are eating and drinking judgment to themselves (I Corinthians 11:29). Does Jesus make much of a difference to us?

Marriages can be difficult with two people living under the same roof involved in each other's lives. Many times, there can be hurt feelings that linger which can lead to outbursts, hateful words, accusations and they slowly drift apart. Right around the corner is the temptation of infidelity and the blame on who is at fault comes into play. No one accepts responsibility for their own actions but excuses their actions with blame. Hearts become hard and embittered attitudes arise. We see the end result of sin in all this...divorce. Does Jesus make much of a difference to us?

Accusations can be brought up by someone toward another. Many times, it can be false, but made to look real. The gossip has spread and people believe they have a case against another, especially if it is toward someone they don't particularly like. Accusations fly and more bitterness is born. Attitudes become set with little thought to where all this is leading or where it came from. Sides are joined, lines are drawn and cliques are formed. It's all like a ticking time bomb. Does Jesus make much of a difference at all?

We read from God's word, hear lessons taught while reading and praying at home. We speak of God never thinking in terms of our fellowship with God. All these attitudes and desires are constantly stirring. No one thinks they are in the wrong, living in the wrong. They believe all is well between them and the Lord. Lessons on tender-heartedness, forgiveness, accepting one another are nodded in agreement. Blinded by sin keeps people from seeing their true condition before God. Unforgiving hearts lead to being unforgiven. No blood of Jesus covering you. It can easily be shrugged off as nothing, believing in a false hope. The real question today: DOES JESUS REALLY MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE IN OUR LIVES? Think about it!!!

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