



“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 19, 2020**

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

Last week we saw that “*Amen*” is more than a word said. It’s a spiritual response to the faithfulness of God and a willingness to submit to His teachings. When God used the word “*Amen*” it was His statement: “*it is and shall be so!*” When man used the word, it meant: “*so let it be!*” That leads us to the question: Is applause an appropriate response in regard to the things of God?

Clapping, for the most part, is an emotional expression of a wonderful moment. When a performance captivates us or some type of victory and other things like that, people clap with approval. Here is where we need teaching and spiritual insight. The Lord is not trying to stop our emotions. The Lord us trying to get us to be a spiritual people rather than worldly reacting and thinking.

***“All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify.”*** (I Corinthians 10:23) There are things that are ‘lawful’ to do but that doesn’t mean it is profitable, especially if it doesn’t edify (build up promoting spiritual growth). How does one know the difference between what is profitable and what is unprofitable? If it edifies, promoting spiritual growth to be more like Christ, then it’s profitable. Things might be lawful but that doesn’t always mean it is the best course to take. You might think something is alright to do but another might not think it’s alright and take offense. What are we to do? ***“So then pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.”*** (Romans 14:19) The Lord is trying to build us into a spiritual house (Ephesians 2:19-22) and we need to follow Him in helping this building up. Rather than react to an emotion because we are overcome, we need to consider how it will affect others and direct that response to God. Some see nothing wrong with clapping while others might take offense so love needs to always be applied when dealing with opinions (Romans 14:15). The Lord Jesus is trying to get us to work from spiritual teachings rather than follow our impulses and feelings. Love is a spiritual response and builds up others (I Corinthians 8:1). The greatest danger that threatens the church is to bring the worlds thinking and practices into our midst. The world doesn’t work from love but from selfish thinking. We have

the Spirit and He leads us into self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). Certain things might be lawful but if it doesn't edify it doesn't need to be done. Our flesh says one thing and if we follow our own desires it will take us deeper and deeper into the things that aren't profitable. Walking with the Lord is being spiritual minded, moving away from our fleshliness submitting our lives under His control within our hearts. We are called to move to a higher level in our thinking and actions in our walk with the Lord.

*“Amen”* is a recognition of God's faithfulness and truth. I've never heard of anyone offended by speaking that. Clapping/applause on the other hand could offend those around us at that moment. ***“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”*** (I John 4:7) Think about it!!!

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