



“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 – June 7, 2020

Heart to Heart...

The Lord is trying to get His love in us. We know that but we don't always co-operate with Him. Too many times we are selfish and self-centered that His love cannot affect our hearts and mind. Over the years I have watched brothers and sisters 'coast' along as all is well with them spiritually. Then one day, something happens that affects them personally and out the door they head! Offended, hurt and basking in their pain. Paul warned Timothy this would happen. There will be grievous times in the church because some members will be lovers of self (II Timothy 3:1-5). Self-lovers make things difficult for the church.

The love of God is what seeks the highest good of another, sacrificing for their sake. It is a love of choice, not feeling. We see the height of this demonstrated through the cross. God's love is described as not a self-seeking love (I Corinthians 13:5) and Jesus wasn't a self-seeker. Love cost Him His life! Jesus gave up His rights for us, seeking our highest good. Aren't you grateful? That love and gratitude should translate into our lives in sacrificing for others as He sacrificed for us. That means we must be seeking God's interest above ours. When we are so "into" ourselves, our thinking, it leads us down of path of blindness and self-destruction. The lack of love is what keeps people stirred especially in times like we see today. Our political climate is what many are focused on rather than the Lord. That can easily lead into loveless responses fueling loveless acts while making loveless statements.

The source of all quarrels and conflicts is the absence of God's love (James 4:1-4). The source of conflict is because things don't go the way we approve or think and our selfish desires rise to the surface. We want it our way and think we are being discounted. It eats on our heart and soul and finally it pushes us to the point that we justify our responses. The problem is God is not like that. When we use our reasoning and wisdom the result is selfish ambition which is the opposite of love. (James 3:14-16) Sometimes we don't want to love, sacrifice for others so we push our agenda. That's what the devil would want. From the beginning we have seen the devil

stir people to follow their desires and make sure no one takes away their rights! John said it best: ***“We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.”*** (I John 3:14) Love is the proving ground that we possess the life of God. Peter says we are to “love the brotherhood.” (I Peter 2:17) If we do not love, we live and take up residence in death and death has no part of God. Let’s encourage one another to love like Christ and rejoice when you encounter a situation that is difficult because there you will find how close you are walking with the Lord! Think about it!!!

Brent