



“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 6, 2020**

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

It's one of the greatest snares of the soul. It endangers the soul and many live with it with such normality they think, well...it's normal because it's a normal way for them to live. They practice it in their homes and their own personal life. An individual was sharing with me how a particular person would come by on a regular basis and things just flowed from their lips with ease. They wanted others to know how “off” many in the church were. What are we speaking about? GRUMBLERS!

The term “grumblers” (some versions use the word “murmurers”) is the Greek word ‘gonguzo’ which means “to mutter, to grumble or say anything in a low tone.” In other words, they always speak things quietly to others. Most “grumblers” are careful not to be heard but they do want others to hear as that's why they speak in such low tones. “Grumblers” express an indignant displeasure for a situation or another person. It is a serious offense in the eyes of the Lord!

In Exodus 16-17 we have God's people in the wilderness. Their “grumbling” cost them their lives! In fact, God said they would never enter into His promises and blessings because of their “grumbling.” They displayed their indignant displeasure in things by “grumbling” against the lack of their needs met and the leadership! As God was trying to help, the more they “grumbled.” Isn't it strange that some of the very “grumblers” in the church would never allow a false notion to be taught and stand up rightfully for God's purpose and truth? Yet when it comes to their own personal “grumbling” it doesn't seem to bother them or take that truth seriously.

Here is Paul's warning to the church: *“Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”* (I Corinthians 10:9-11) We have been given an example that “grumblers” will not make it! The “grumblers” were destroyed! That

should get out attention. God is not tolerant of “grumblers”, complainers, backbiters, gossipers or bickering brethren. Jude sounds the warning from the Lord: ***“It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.’ These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage.”*** (Jude 14-16)

Our words and conversations should express faith in God and trust in His word. Instead of “grumbling” about how things are done or not done, line up with the Lord and help things move spiritually toward the Lord and not away. We need to encourage one another toward the blessings of God, even when things may not suit us. At least we promote spiritual gain and not pull things apart. If we are hurting by grumbling, God must deal with us personally. Think about it!!!

Brent