



“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 – February 13, 2022**

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

I don't know if it bothers you but too many speak of God in terms that are demeaning. God should be exalted! Our Creator, Redeemer, and Savior yet many a preacher/teacher and brethren make God out to be their "*chum*" or their "*good buddy*". Then goes the conversations they have with God their "*pal*". In this comes a dialogue that is less than reverent. It is almost a joking conversation to listen how some address and even speak to God.

I once heard many years back a fellow addressed God in the assembly of the saints as "Heavenly Dad"! People have stated to God, "Thank you Daddy!" It seems more and more are putting their own ideas into their approach to God, and less reverence losing sight of who He really is. He is not "the Big Man Upstairs"! It is time we do a little searching ourselves and see what is meant when we see our adoption as His children and crying out "*Abba Father.*" (Romans 8:15) Maybe our assemblies wouldn't be so "*coffee*" friendly!

God's greatness and glory are so beyond anything we can ever realize. That should create within us a rejoicing with trembling. "*Worship the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling.*" (Psalm 2:11) The Hebrew writer reminds us that since "*we received a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe.*" (Hebrews 12:28) Paul instructed the Philippians to "*work out your salvation with fear and trembling.*" (Philippians 2:12) Paul, speaking of sinful man: "*There is no fear of God before their eyes.*" (Romans 3:18)

To waltz into the presence of God with an attitude of a buddy system or a heavenly 'dad' is out of order. At the same time, we don't need to grovel into His presence either. One is an insult, and the other is tragic ignorance. God is our Father who loves us so much and wants us with Him. For that we rejoice. But that's just it, He's our Father, not our pal or an earthly dad! Rejoice in His love while enjoying His salvation. "*If you address as Father the One who impartially*

*judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth."* (I Peter 1:17) Let's make certain we have some reverence for God, His position, His power and His name. Think about it!!!

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