



"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 – April 16, 2023

Heart to Heart...

We walked into a restaurant to eat. There was a sign on the wall as you walked in that said: *"Please do not use any foul or offensive language out of respect for God!"* It was amazing to see such in our day and time.

The words that many use to communicate are troublesome today. Words from years gone by that were innocent have become degrading, deplorable and vile! Words used that degrade women, insult people are heard almost daily. Does it bother you? There seems to be an entire dictionary of sexual and anatomical words that are used to throw filth and insults at others, and they flow freely in so many of our movies, sitcoms and have found their way into many homes. They are words to sting, shock and let one know how they feel when they disagree or upset. I can remember in years gone by that even the slightest slip of a word in the presence of a woman or child was immediately followed with a humble apology. Not anymore.

It is filthy, rude and crude language that has found its way into the heart and mind of people. Have you listened to the youth in our day and time? The free-flowing language that is used without any shame and disregard for anyone in public. God's name has found its way into all this filth and degrading talk and is thrown around in times of anger, surprise and just plain talking.

There is another side also. The words that are used in describing God's holiness and power such as "majesty", "sovereignty" or just "holy and righteous" are becoming obsolete. Many have taken God down to such a human based level that God has become cozy with us is and He is completely "sinner friendly" that there is nothing anyone must do but believe because God is going to save everyone!!! It carries over in worship and it becomes a "happy hour" while parading us in our wonderful gifts for all to witness only breaking out to applause and laughter. "Sacredness" and "reverence" are words that may one day be stricken from our language.

Here's the real problem and issue with all this: the things we speak come from the heart of an individual. (Matthew 12:35-36). The language we use reveals the condition of our heart! The lack of reverence and respect seem to be infiltrating the mind and heart of many. Cutting and vile words used in the moment of anger will become old and new words will pop up from hearts filled with vile thinking. The same will happen in approaching God. There will be new "buzz" words thrown around, sermons will be built on them, and lives will center on them. It makes me wonder if we really are paying attention to the Lord anymore, listening to His word, taking it to heart!

What fails to escape many is this: ***"But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment."*** (Matthew 12:36) Jesus spoke these words. May we allow God to write on our heart His words of grace and holiness. May we perceive His Majesty, honoring His name with our language. Our salvation in Jesus Christ should make us holy in word and thought as He is holy. Think about it!!!

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