



"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 – May 14, 2023

Heart to Heart...

If someone asked you if you are a spiritual person, what would you say? I suspect that nearly everyone who reads this would say 'yes.' We generally associate spiritual with believing in God and in His Son Jesus. We connect spiritual with attending the assemblies. While those things are necessary, being spiritual is much more than just believing in the Lord and attending assemblies. Even beyond reading your Bible and praying. Paul taught in I Corinthians 3:1-3, ***"And I brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?"*** Let's look carefully at this. The reason people can't recognize what is fleshly and what is spiritual is because they don't let go of the fleshly things. Just listen how people openly speak about another or maybe a difficulty in their lives dealing with another. They condemn, put them down, sharing things that should not be spoken against another. They may believe in God and read His word but it is having little effect because of their fleshliness. A spiritual person loves at all times. And love ***"bears all things."*** (I Corinthians 13:7) What does it mean to "bear all things?" The word literally means, "to protect, or preserve by covering, hence means to keep off something which threatens, to bear up against, to hold out against, and so to endure." A spiritual person does not speak openly about a situation in their lives when it involves another person. They preserve the one, protect the one instead of exposing them to others. That makes the Proverbs speak to us: ***"When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise."*** (Proverbs 10:19) To openly speak against another, that is not a spiritual person but a fleshly-minded person. Sometimes we gather to try to get others to speak about the difficulties they encounter and cover it with the idea of love. That's not spiritual. ***"Love bears all things."*** As Paul teaches Timothy speaking of younger widows: ***"At the same time they also learn to be idle,***

as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention.” (I Timothy 5:13) (The underline is my emphasis.)

A spiritual person is a person who allows the things of God to have complete rule and not their personal desires and feelings. Instead of being upset about someone, they practice love. Instead of lashing out, they return good. Instead of holding to a hurt, they embrace forgiveness and offer it freely. Instead of dividing, they unite around the unity of the Spirit. A spiritual person is a person who walks after the Spirit desiring to help maintain the unity and love at all costs. This is how God defines a spiritual person. Think about it!!!

Brent