



"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 21, 2023

Heart to Heart...

"For you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (I Peter 2:10) We were taken from not being the people of God to being the people of God because of His mercy. It is the mercy of God that brought us *redemption*! What a wonderful word directed toward us. Until one comes to the Lord with a whole heart on His terms they do not have *redemption*. What is *redemption*? It literally means "to buy back." What does one have to be bought back from? Sin and its enslaving power. Sin ruled our lives and mastered our decisions. Too many are religious but never redeemed! Sin is still their master and they aren't the people of God.

To be *redeemed* calls one into a holy response to God. The *redeemed* are concerned about holiness and are motivated to following the Lord each and every day. Why should wives submit to their husbands (Ephesians 5:23)? Because they have been *redeemed*! Why should husbands love their wives like Jesus does the church? Because they have been *redeemed*, bought back to the Lord! Why should people forgive those who sin against them? Because God, through the *redeeming* work of Christ, has forgiven us (Ephesians 4:32)! Why do we accept one another? Because of Christ's *redemption* of us, He has accepted us (Romans 15:7)! Why are servants called to obey, even to those unreasonable masters? Because of the suffering of Christ and His *redeeming* blood on our behalf (I Peter 2:21-25)! Why does God ask us to live our lives in holiness and reverence? Because He called us through His Son's precious *redeeming* blood to Himself (I Peter 1:14-18)! Why do we keep our word and do as we say? Because we have been *redeemed*! We are the people of God. We have received mercy.

In all things in our lives, we aren't called to live with good behavior and just be nice people. There are a lot of lost people who can have good behavior and be nice. We aren't called to do anything because we are special. We are called to follow the Lord, put His interests first in all our

decisions because we have been *redeemed*! Everything we do, every word we speak, every first day of the week in remembering the death of Jesus in assembling with His people should be tied directly to *redemption*. We have been bought back with the precious blood of Jesus. It's a gift and the way we live and approach life expresses how His gift affects us. Why do you live and do the things you do? Think about it!!!

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