



"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 – July 16, 2023

Heart to Heart...

"But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him." (Romans 8:9) Very simple and plain. There are no ways to try to discern this. It is plain as can be. One either has the Spirit of Christ or they don't. The evidence is seen in their daily living. We know well the evidence of possessing the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23: ***'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.'*** The proving ground, the true test of belonging to the Lord is found right here.

Too many times we may be majoring in the minors and minoring in the major. To call ourselves followers of Christ and there is no result of the Spirit in our lives, that person needs to rethink about why they were baptized into Christ. Twofold: (1) For the forgiveness of sin (2) And the promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38) That's just fact and plain. The Spirit of Christ cannot indwell anyone that hasn't been cleansed. God is holy. Christ Jesus is holy. The Spirit is holy so the first thing that is a must is placing your faith in being made holy at baptism by the blood of Christ. Once we realize that, the promise of The Spirit becomes a reality.

"For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." (Romans 8:14) We must have the Spirit to belong and then must yield to His Spirit as His child. It's not a 'fuzzy' feeling or something that makes you tingle. The Spirit can't be felt. He is a promise. People gather and speak against a preacher from the lessons they have heard. Or they speak against the elders for decisions or maybe they believe they have a better idea of what elders should be doing. Or they speak against another one of God's Spirit promised people. GOSSIP! Who is leading one to do this?

What really counts? I must have the Spirit to belong to God and then I must allow the Spirit to lead me into the very nature of God. Think about it!!!

Brent