



"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 – December 3, 2023

Heart to Heart...

"The Lord said to the sons of Israel, 'Did I not deliver you from the Egyptians, the Amorites, the sons of Ammon, and the Philistines? ...Yet you have forsaken Me and served other gods; therefore I will no longer deliver you. Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your distress.'" (Judges 10:11;13-14) Israel responds: "The sons of Israel said to the Lord, 'We have sinned, do to us whatever seems good to You; only please deliver us this day.' So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the Lord; and He could bear the misery of Israel no longer" (Judges 1- 15-16) Enough is enough! God is so patient with His people.

Many times, we show so little appreciation for God and His great love in which He loves us. There can be little appreciation for Jesus as our substitute. It seems we have our convenient idols called comfort and entertainment. While those idols get us excited. We indulge, and not just some, but with all our being having little shame or thought about how we dedicate our lives to these idols while no shame in hurting God.

God's love is not some kind of mechanical, robotic kind of commitment without any feeling where we commit one time and turn away the next. Our God and Father feels deeply for each of us. Our wandering into our selfishness and comforts breaks the heart of God. When we sin and go after other idols, it hurts Him. We grieve His Spirit. God is a jealous God. His heart burns within Him when we go after other "*lovers.*" You can hear Him say, "*Go after your gods you devote yourselves to and cry out to them!*" If we would pay closer attention, we could see the pain we cause God at times by our choices and devotion.

Yet here is God the Father who still wants us and wants us to want Him. God has a relentless love and keeps trying to reach us over and over when we make poor choices or devote to one

thing and another. We get ourselves into messes and we cry out for help, His help. This pain is the consequence of our sin!

Why does God receive us back? Why does He wait with open arms? Why does He even care when we hurt Him so often and deeply? Because He is God, the Father! His love won't let us go without trying to reach each one of us. Think about it!!!

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