



"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 – February 11, 2024

Heart to Heart...

Over the many years I have heard people state: *"God knows my heart!"* When people speak such it generally is because of some sin they are practicing in their life and this is their answer to deal with it! This phrase, *"God knows my heart"* is nothing more than a cover-up to excuse sin. It sounds as if the one is saying, "I know I am doing wrong but I'm a good person in heart and the Lord knows it!" It is true that God does know our hearts! But that statement shouldn't make us feel better. It really exposes our justification of sin practiced and God never approves of sin and never calls one who habitually practices sin as a good-hearted person. Jesus spoke that a good heart is comprised of those who hear His word, hold it fast and it bears fruit in their lives (Luke 8:15). Jesus also taught that out of the heart proceed "evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness." (Mark 7:21-22) Any of the things spoken by Jesus were all started within the heart. And yes, "God knows your heart!" The real question is, "Do you know your own heart?" ***"The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?"*** (Jeremiah 17:9) Our hearts are what defiles us before the Lord and our hearts are the most deceptive part of us. If the heart isn't surrendered to the Lord, it will continue to deceive you and the worst position on earth is a self-deceived person!

One doesn't practice sin because they have a good heart. One practices sin because they have a sinful heart! Yes, it is true that we all sin (I John 2:1) but a good heart doesn't excuse themselves with, *"God knows my heart!"* A good and humble heart is sensitive and goes to the Lord for His forgiveness and cleansing (I John 1:9) striving to follow His word. A pure heart keeps sin away and allows the Lord entrance to follow His ways. Our hearts are hidden from man, but they are open and bare to God (Hebrews 4:13). You can hide your motives from man, but God understands why you do as you do. You can appear godly and righteous to others even if you're corrupt in heart, but God sees your heart clearly. Jesus condemned those who looked good

outwardly but inward they were full of evil (Matthew 23:25). Let's be honest between ourselves and God. No matter how many things you have thought or done, your heart is worse! Our heart is not better than our life but worse as we can pretend, cover-up and fake. God knows the little secrets, our greed, our motives, our lusts, our selfishness, our bitterness and resentful attitudes. The death of Jesus came to us and only in His death and resurrection can one find life. When one speaks, "*God knows my heart!*" that should drive us to our knees and bring about a repentant heart needing cleansing before the Lord. The fact that God does know our heart should alert us that what you did came from a heart not pure and clean. Our only hope is Jesus and His cleansing blood. We need the Lord to create within us a clean and useful heart. Yes, God does know each of our hearts. We need to allow Him to be our Shepherd leading us away from sin and into His righteousness. Think about it!!!

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