



"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 – June 15, 2025

Heart to Heart...

The world around us is influencing us more than many realize. We speak of trusting in God, listening to His word yet in certain things, God is no longer the answer or the source of our answers. We turn quickly to doctor's advice or some psychologists to influence our thinking. Why? Because we believe in them for answers to certain aspects of our spiritual wellbeing! That's where we put our faith! Once a person's faith is placed in this direction, it is extremely difficult to turn them around. Did Paul not warn the Corinthian brethren about their faith resting on the wisdom of men and not on the power of God (I Corinthians 2:1-5)? When one does this, it robs them of the power from God, weakening their faith and will eventually ruin them.

Israel began intermingling with the women of Moab and started "attending" services with them. The Lord had their leaders executed in broad daylight because they allowed it (Numbers 25). The people were cursed for their compromising the truth and some 24,000 died. King Saul had become so corrupt in his heart, the Lord turned away from him. When Saul was faced with difficulty, he turned immediately to the world around him for spiritual advice and help because the Lord would not respond (I Samuel 28).

The downfall to God's people from the ages past was always listening to the world, fellowshiping the world and loving the world. The central church of Christ in Cincinnati, Ohio, dedicated a new building in February. It was the largest church building in the city seating over 2,000. It boasted the largest glass-stained window in America. Baptist, Methodist, and Congregationalist preachers were invited to speak all week long at the dedication of this new facility. By inviting all these different ones to speak, the congregation stated that it was a progressive new approach to worship and encouraging unity among the religious of the community. They rationalized setting aside the truth and reaching out in its compromise. ***The year was 1872!!*** Sounds like today, doesn't it? We need to love the truth, never compromising the truth.

Peter wrote boldly that there will be those false brethren among us who will “*malign the way of the truth*”. What is worse? Many will follow them (I Peter 2:1-3)! More and more want women preachers thinking there is nothing wrong with women preachers. Where did that stirring of many hearts come from? Not the word but the world because the world has embraced it. The world tells us to ‘modernize’ but God’s word tells us to love Him and follow His teachings. ***“But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.”*** (II Timothy 2:12). Paul was speaking of the assembly of the saints! It is easy to slide things in from the world, but it will come with a price. That price is God will no longer claim us as His people! Are we willing to pay that price? Think about it!!!

Brent