



"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 – October 11, 2026

Heart to Heart...

The book of Hosea gives great insight to how God deals with His people. Hosea was the last of the prophets sent to the northern ten tribes of Israel before they are carried off into captivity. After the death of Solomon, Israel divided into two different kingdoms and Jeroboam was crowned king over these ten northern tribes (I Kings 12). From this point onward, Israel constantly went astray and was ultimately carried off into Assyrian captivity, never to return. Two tribes remained faithful to the Lord much longer, Judah and Benjamin. One lesson we learn from the book is that God's people can become so ingrained in what they want that they will forsake the Lord, thinking they are right with God. Just like a disease, sin is contagious! Hosea gives us 7 things that bring on the downfall of His people.

(1) Lack of knowledge. (Hosea 4:6)

We are speaking of something different than intelligence. Ignorance of God is what leads people into sinful actions. Their ignorance of God is passed from parent to child and as the next generation rises, they become more distant and ungodly while still worshiping God (Hosea 4:7-10).

(2) Pride. (Hosea 5:4-5)

Pride is always built off of ignorance. People that are prideful get to a point of no return and God withdraws Himself. We know well that God is opposed to the proud.

(3) Instability. (Hosea 6:4)

People can be good starters but poor finishers. When people are unstable they need to realize they are not walking by faith and their instability withholds God from them (James 1:7-8). How many assemble to worship out of habit rather than trust and love?

(4) Loving the world and things in the world. (Hosea 7:8-11)

People are slowly overcome by those around them, conforming to their standards. They turn to man for their comfort and strength rather than flee closer to God to draw near. Jeremiah said cursed is a person that makes man his strength (Jeremiah 17:5).

(5) Corruption. (Hosea 9:9)

Their corruption will bring a double guilt (10:10). God says He “hated” them for what they are doing (9:15). It is hard to believe God hated but people become so corrupt that God can no longer help.

(6) Back sliding. (Hosea 11:5-7)

People at times seem bent to turn away from the Lord. No matter what, they will not listen and become determined to do things their own way. They refuse the teachings from God while establishing their own thoughts. That is a backsliding heart!

(7) Idolatry. (Hosea 13:2)

Today we can become idolaters. People put their smarts, their jobs, their recreation or wealth before the Lord. That is idolatry.

How can we avoid such trappings? **“Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them. For the ways of the Lord are right, and the righteous will walk in them, but the transgressors will stumble in them.”** (Hosea 14:9) Think about it!!!

-Brent