Fairgrounds Road
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MESSENGER
"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 – November 8, 2026

Heart to Heart...

Who are we really following? Man or Jesus? That's a rather odd question but maybe not. In the days of Paul, the church at Corinth, a congregation he had started, were dividing up over men and dedicated to them (I Corinthians 1:12). Some were followers of Apollos. Apollos was known as an *"eloquent"* man in Acts 18:24. That term *"eloquent"* carries an unusual double meaning in the Greek. It can mean either a man skilled in the use of words as in an *"eloquent"* speaker or a man *"eloquent"* in ideas and thinking or learned. Whichever way it is used, people were drawn to Apollos and some were causing division because of him. Others claimed Cephas (Peter) as the one they chose to follow. After all, he was an original, he walked with the Lord and was spontaneous and bold. Still others followed Paul as the one who blazed the trail into the world in setting up congregations of our Lord. And then there were those who simply followed Christ Jesus. Four groups in one congregation!

There is nothing changed today. People in the church seem to be drawn to man for one reason or another. We like this preacher or that one the best. They gather around this person or that one because something draws their attention. However, Paul sets things in their proper perspective when he asks: ***"Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?"*** (I Corinthians 1:13) Why would anyone be so dedicated to a man? There are two main reasons: (1) Because they are still childish and have not matured spiritually (I Corinthians 3:1-4). Immature saints want to belong to someone or someone that belongs to them. (2) They are impressed by the status of a speaker or his association. Paul insisted to the Galatian brethren that the exalted status of a speaker had nothing to do with the truth or error of his message (Galatians 1:8). In fact, Peter the admired apostle, found himself in error and Paul had to call his hand (Galatians 2:11-14). Even Paul's right hand man and close associate Barnabas, the Son of Encouragement (Acts 4:36), was carried away by Peter's stance. It can happen easily.

What do we learn? Christ calls us all, who are immersed into Him and bear His name, ***brethren*** (Hebrews 2:11). We belong to Jesus not to man. Because we belong to Jesus we belong to one another that are tied to Jesus. We are called HIS BODY, the church. That is an essential truth that we need to always be aware of and accept. It's Christ we are bound to. It's Christ we serve and it's Christ who is committed to us. With that, are we committed to Jesus or man? What would Jesus promote? Think about it!!!

Brent