

“Heart to Heart”
March 10, 2013

God is HIGHLY RELATIONAL.

- From the beginning, He revealed Himself as “US” (Gen. 1:26)
- “US” made us—that we might share life with Him and one another

Our enemy hates “US”—will do anything to destroy relationships.

- The root of the words “evil” and “sin” is “*to shred, divide, separate*”
- In the Eden rebellion, he deceptively separated the first couple from God and from one another
- He knows that a “house/kingdom divided...cannot stand” (Mk. 3:25)

Jesus came to FULLY RESTORE “heart to heart” relationships.

- John 17:20-23- “that THEY may be in US”
 - Attracts His presence (“in the midst of you”—fully manifest)
 - Attracts the world (They will “see”- authentic, tangible love)
- He has given us the “ministry of reconciliation” (2 Cor. 5:18)
- He has designed relationships as the perfect place to grow up.

PROP- Healthy relationships are a MATTER OF THE HEART.

1. IT ALL STARTS IN THE HEART

Proverbs 4:23- GUARD YOUR HEART: “the well-spring of life” (NIV) “out of it flow the issues of life” (KJV) “it’s where life starts” (The Message)

SEE Hebrews 10:11-25 The Message

Hebrews 10:22- Now we can “draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.” (NIV)

“SELF-righteousness” is about striving to “get our act together.” [Filling our heads with facts and our life with activities...uncertain we’ve done enough]

TRUE righteousness is about a restored relationship. It’s not an “act”. [It’s an amazing “interaction” as we receive Him. He restores us, heals us, changes us...as we rest confidently in all that HE’S DONE!!!]

- It’s more than us changing our thoughts—it’s Him changing our hearts
- Paul: “I will only speak of what Christ has wrought in me” (Rom. 15:18) [*Wrought- “to accomplish; create; to shape elaborately, i.e., metals*]
- Our heart WAS “deceitful” (Jer. 17:9); NOW made “soft” (Ezek. 36:26)- “a heart that’s God-willed, not self-willed” (The Message)
- “His word on our hearts”—the capacity to “will and do” His will

2. HE IS RESTORING OUR HEARTS

Malachi 4 (paraphrase)-

“It is never wise to be arrogant (self-sufficient, proud, unteachable). The result of such a lifestyle is DARKNESS—loneliness, cut off from life-giving interactions with God and other people.

But for those with godly fear—awed by and intently focused on the nature of God—utterly fascinated with and deeply motivated by His heart—IT’S SUNRISE!

He rises over us with “healing radiating from His wings!” (The Message)

The God-of-angel-armies declares this over us:

“Bursting with energy, you will frolic like well-fed calves.”

You will tromp every one of your spiritual enemies. You won’t toy with them, be intimidated by them, or shrink back from dealing with them.

There, in the sunrise of His presence, you will experience the healing of relationships.

Those with tremendous callings, gifting, potential—yet, hindered by relational handicaps—will experience a “turning of their hearts”.

Yes, their hearts will be “turned”—“*refreshed, recovered, fully restored.*”

They will receive an increased capacity to love, honor, bear with, stop recording wrongs. They will see others through the Father’s eyes—and love them with the Father’s heart.

With tongues tamed and thoughts captive—they will love fervently and deeply. My love will be fiery among them.

They will live so loved—they can’t help but love!”

RESPONSE

(i.e., Phyllis Dietrich’s vision- “An angel with a golden cord weaving through our hearts, binding our hearts together in love. The cord was going through the hearts of the congregation. Like beads slid together in a necklace, each heart is next to the heart of another. The Lord is knitting our hearts together through love in order to align us with His word.”)