



June 25, 2006

### *How Secure Are We*

I don't watch much television especially in the Summer months when the programming seems to really drop off. I especially dislike "reality" shows that are on and avoid them when I do watch anything. This past week as I was walking through the house I noticed the show "Wife Swap" was on. The title alone is aggravating but this particular episode caught my attention. A Bible believing wife was traded with the wife of an atheist and I wondered what the outcome would be. I was immediately reminded of Paul's warning to Christians not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers which critical in a marriage. I noticed that the atheist male was having problems with this situation and the cameras focused on his emotional breakdown after a short time around someone who believed in God. His insecurity was demonstrated when he told the swap wife how she had made him feel guilty, that he was not good enough and how everything he did was wrong. The situation was ridiculous to begin with and those who had signed up for this had to know that the producers, or whoever was responsible for setting up the "swap", intended to generate drama for the ratings to keep the show interesting. Who in their right mind would volunteer to have their life turned inside out and aired to millions of viewers? But that is how show business works. If any of us were in that same situation I wonder how we would fare. I was reminded of the atheistic philosophies that exist in virtually every classroom and institution of higher learning. Humanism, a highly atheistic, or at least agnostic system of viewing the world, proposes that there is no God. In place of the supreme deity the position of man, as the most highly evolved animal on the planet, is seen as having inherent value and humans should pursue that which pleases them in order to achieve a more gratifying life. As I watched, I saw that the man was evidently not as secure in his beliefs as he perhaps thought he was. Atheistic humanists tell us that one person is not able to "make" another "feel" anything and yet here was an atheist, in tears, lamenting how an individual had "made" him feel like he was guilty and worthless. This should not have been possible and yet it happened. While the swap wife was apparently not a New Testament Christian, she represented something that was powerful enough to cause emotional distress in one who rejected God and His word. We read that the scriptures are the sword of the spirit (**Eph 6.17**) and that it is quick and powerful able to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart (**Heb 4.12**). This man's life was touched by the idea of God and precipitated a severe reaction. He was not as secure in his unbelief as he undoubtedly would have liked to believe. In real life, not the "reality" of network produced television, would we, as Christians, have fared any better. In the world we sometimes find ourselves overwhelmed by the polished arguments of those who hate the idea of God. How do we react to the social forces of tolerance, for everything that is not condoned by God, and the lives of those who have adopted a godless attitude? Are we strong enough in our faith to tell others they are wrong even if it causes them to shun us and mark us as ignorant and archaic. In the show, the man told the swap wife that he did not need the Bible to guide his life and saw the ills of the world as the product of hate and prejudice fueled by the Bible. Unfortunately there are those who believe in the Bible who cannot teach others without attacking them in ways that do more harm than good. Are we secure enough in what we believe and teach to weather these things and be what God would have us to be? We may never exchange our families in such a way as was done in this program, but we go out into the world every day and interact with those who are lost. Are we secure enough to tell them that they are lost and that they need to repent and serve God (**Lk 13.3**), or do we allow ourselves to be drawn into endless social debates about the "failure of religion"? Each day as we go about our activities we have the opportunity to find out as we try to teach the erring before it is everlastingly too late for them, and for us. Or do we "swap" our beliefs, exchanging them for complacent silence out of fear of what someone might think of us? What "reality" are we living?

*TLC*