



# Church of Christ

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204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

## Heart to Heart...

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. (Eph. 2:1-2)

The above describes our former state of being and how sin controlled our lives. Sin had control of our thoughts and actions. There was no difference between us and the world in that state of being.

Even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus. (Eph. 2:5-6)

We've been raised with Jesus, seated with Him. We were dead and He made us alive. The eternal nature of God is ours, if we set our minds and hearts on seeking Him. If we don't, spiritual corruption will set back in our being and we will fall prey to the very thing God destroyed in Jesus.

Some, in the name of our Lord, are encouraging spiritual corruption. Thinking they are lovers of God, masking under faith in Jesus, they actually aid others to follow their selfish lusts. What's worse, they aren't even aware they are doing it! Let me give you some examples. A few years ago, a Christian counselor gave some advice to a lady in Christ who had complained her husband tells little white lies. The advice this Christian counselor gave this lady was, Why don't you tell really big lies for a week so your husband will get the message about what he is doing to you! The counselor even gave advice on the first lie! Why would we promote spiritual corruption when we are Christ's and freed from sin? Don't we realize that all liars will have their part in the lake of fire? (Rev. 21:8) The Christian counselor was corrupting the lady and creating more decay. What's worse, the lady in Christ could not even recognize she was headed down the road to a more decayed state of being!

A young man and lady were engaged to be married. They were both in Christ. They talked with the minister about their up-coming marriage. As the conversation continued, they revealed that they had been sexually active with each other. There was little to no shame and yet, they spoke openly of their faith in Christ. When the minister called their hand, the young lady became upset and began justifying their behavior. They both had deceived themselves by their own lusts. Spiritual corruption was advancing in their lives and they couldn't even tell the difference. But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints. (Eph. 5:3)

Spiritual corruption is a continuous, active progression. Sometimes you see it in the leaders of the church. They promote or do things contrary to the Word of God and show little remorse. Members of Christ's body encourage people to go with *the course of the world*, to react like the world around us and justify our actions by thinking it's normal. We are Christ's. We've been bought with a price, justified (declared not guilty) in His blood and sanctified (set apart as holy) to God. Sin no longer rules us. Are we going to walk by faith in Christ or follow our dead, natural nature in *which we walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience?* What are you encouraging others in? Don't deceive yourself, brethren. Think about it!!!

Brent