



# Church of Christ

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## Heart to Heart...

“Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in Him.” (I John 2:15) Are we really in love with the world? Many times we don't think we are. The word “*love*” is the same word used for God's love toward mankind. It's the love that you sacrifice for and what you are fond of. One cannot love the world and the Father at the same time. It's impossible! To sacrifice for the things of the world is to love it.

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life is not from the Father, but is from the world.” (I John 2:16) The world works off of lusts. They want things and want their desires fulfilled. Desiring more is the norm in the world. Why do so many get into financial problems with credit cards? Lust stirs within many the desires to gamble and hit it big. The lottery plays to a persons greed. The odds of winning are staggering. Yet with an almost non-existent chance of winning, people reach for the mountain peak they think their winnings will bring. If one wins the lottery, would they suddenly quit lusting for more? How long would it be before more and more “lustful” friends would try to talk them out of some their new found wealth? The winnings would take our lusts into bigger homes, more comfortable lives and more things to possess. That's the power of lust. Lusts will deceive your own heart! (Eph. 4:22) God does not promote lust and pride within people!

“For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matt. 16:26) What value do you place on your soul? When one loves the world, they can't care as God cares for others. Their only concern is what they can gain. They cause hurt to others, whether intentionally or unintentionally. They rob others with their greed and desires. Their love for things and pleasures over-rides their love for the Father. In the end, they forfeit their souls, all for the sake of their own desires.

To love God with all our heart means we will overcome. The things of the world mean little and our sacrifices will be for God and His purposes. The security of the soul will be affected in this life and the life to come! Peace will reign within because Christ will be the ruling factor in the heart, not our lusts! What about you? Do you love the world and the things in the world more than God? Take a look at what you sacrifice for and you will find your answer. Think about it!!!

Brent