



# Church of Christ

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204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

## Heart to Heart...

"That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit." (Eph. 4:22) We all have an old self and it is in the constant state of deterioration. When we were baptized into Christ, our old self wasn't taken out of our lives but rendered powerless (Rom. 6). Our old self is still in us and can operate within us if we allow. We are commanded to lay aside the old self! If one doesn't, they operate in the realm of corruption in their lives and corruption doesn't contain itself in just one area, it infects our whole being!

Take for instance when one tells a "little white lie." That lie is corruption and comes from the old self. What one must do is protect the lie, which leads to other means of cover up and deception. We don't want to be found out that we lied, so we take drastic means to keep it hidden. The corruption has spread itself within our being!

The old self is corrupted and works off of the lusts of deceit. Lusts are nothing more than our desires being stirred within us. Those desires can deceive us. Here is a person in Christ; they get angry (that's a desire of lust), and out of their mouth pours profanity. At first, they are careful and upset they allowed such corruption to come from their lips. As time goes on, they never put off the old self, corruption sets in, and almost in every case they get angry. Profane words come out and they no longer care who hears it! Corruption takes us in and makes us more and more insensitive to what we are doing. That's what leads people into saying they don't care what someone else says or thinks. They are going to continue to follow their lusts of deceit. In the meantime, they are slowly deteriorating and moving away from God.

"And put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth." (Eph. 4:24) The answer for us in Christ is putting on the new self. It's been created in the likeness of God. Would God lie? Would God use profanity? Would God practice unrighteousness or be deceitful? What about our new self? I'm not talking perfection but a way in which our lusts can't operate and control us. Selfish desires works within the old self. Notice the new self operates in the realm of the truth. The truth is based on righteousness and holiness.

We have an opportunity to grasp hold of God. The only question left is this; will we allow the old self to continue its reign within us, or will we lay it aside and put on the new self and allow God to reign within us? If we allow sin, which operates in our old self, to run our lives, we don't realize what happened to us when we entered Christ at baptism. It might do us good to go back and read Romans 6 again. Think about it!!!

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