

# Church of Christ

## ... Heart to Heart ...

There are two types of ignorance. One type is someone who lacks in skill or education. The other is an ignorance that comes from hardness of heart and lack of insight to God. Because of this second type of ignorance, people make foolish and harmful decision without realizing the consequences. **“So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart.”** (Eph. 4:17-18) God shows us why we can't follow the world's thinking or path! They are darkened in their understanding, excluded from God's life because of their ignorance, caused by hardness of heart.

When one hardens their own heart, they literally push God away in their thinking (or make God be what they want to believe Him to be) and God responds by giving them a depraved mind. **“And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper.”** (Rom. 1:28) It can happen to those in Christ. When one doesn't respond to God's word and His ways, God gives them what they want...a mind that runs after improper things. It shows up in their life. Hard-hearted people do not want to do what God expects from them. They simply do not love God. They love themselves by making each decision on how it will affect them. They want what they want regardless of what hurt it causes to others. They walk in a world of sin and ignorance. They can't see the pain they cause, the choices they make, and the things they do, as sinful because the hardness of heart won't allow anything of God to expose them (John 3:19-21).

The worst part of hard heartedness is that one becomes ignorant of who God truly is! They lose sight of the death of Jesus, because it is nothing more than words to them. It no longer impacts them, moving them into God's world of knowing Him and His ways. Their lives gradually take on more and more pain and confusion. At the moment, it may look good as things move along in their favor, but one day it will show up in their life when things turn out in such a mess. Their ignorance leads them into the blinding walk of the power of sin and death. Self-deceit becomes part of their world and they deceive others. Ignorance is killing so many.

Peter exhorts us, **“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance.”** (I Pet. 1:14) How's your heart? Think about it!!!