



Church of Christ

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204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

Heart to Heart...

If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 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. 4:21-22)

Our relationship to Jesus is to change our relationship to sin. Sin works in our *old self* and that *old self* had to be crucified and buried (Rom. 6:1-7). We have a *new self* that is from God and we need to put him on. In order to put on the new, we must lay aside the old. The *old self is being corrupted*. The state of corruption continues in our natural nature. To try to walk with God while never putting off the old will decay you until you do something horrible.

People that we have known for many years seem to walk faithfully with the Lord. We are encouraged by them, admire them and then one day, they do something so hideous and shocking. For example, how devastating is it to see those we hold in positions of honor, such as a deacon, elder or preacher, and they run off with another woman? People who are respected for their spiritual insight suddenly do things so sinful. I've known of a person who counted the collection each Sunday and they pocketed some of the money given. They were caught and found out it had been going on for years. We are left wondering, *Why?* Couples, who we think of as spiritual and godly, serving the Lord for many years, and then suddenly divorce. It leaves us in shock and unbelief. Why do such things happen to what seems to be godly, sincere, spiritual people?

It's called *being corrupted*. A slow, decaying process that decomposes the inner person. It's not something that happens quickly. It comes by bits and pieces. Little by little, day by day the deterioration process begins by taking in ungodly, evil desires through lusts. It continues to a point that one day, it shows itself in a public manner. The longer one follows their own selfish lusts, corruption will be the result. The longer one walks in their lusts, it becomes part of their everyday life and thought process. It becomes natural to be self serving, while all the time they hide behind the mask of being spiritual. The lusts move us to masquerade what is really going on.

People proclaim Christianity and yet, as they live each day, profane and unholy words come from their mouths. They wouldn't dare say things profane around others in Christ. They cover it up but one day, it's going to reveal itself. Someone in Christ might drink socially but would never give a hint of it around others in Christ. One day, it will show itself. The longer the corruption stays within us, the more and more one decays spiritually. The Christian who sneaks pornography, the decaying process is going on and one day, it will reveal itself. To cover things up shows us how aware we are of our practices.

God wants His Son to be everything to us. When we were cleansed by being baptized into Christ, God provided us with a *new self* to walk in this newness of life. *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) We have to put on this *new self*. It's our *new self* that God uses as an instrument to operate in. The *old self* is completely useless to God and us! What about you? What *self* are you walking in? The *new self* is only available to those who have been baptized into Christ. The outsider, the corruption process is a constant way of life. Think about it!!!

Brent