



# Church of Christ

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204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

## Heart to Heart...

Isaiah speaks of man's ignorance in his idolatry. Man takes a tree, cuts it down and shapes the wood. He works it with planes and outlines it with a compass and fashions it into a man (or something else) to fall down and worship. The other half of the tree he burns in a fire to warm himself. Why? "They do not know, nor do they understand, for He has smeared over their eyes so that they cannot see and their hearts so that they cannot comprehend." (Isa. 44:18) God is One who prevents people from understanding what they are doing. He is also the One who allows people to understand.

As we read such, it makes us chuckle at the ignorance of such people. We call it idolatry. Yet today, many are still enslaved to idolatry, with the same blind eyes and heart of those who fall down before idols. Idolatry is defined as *anything that comes between you and God*. It can reach from a block of wood, to possessions, entertainment, work, and even relationships. Idolatry is seen in lucky charms such as pennies, four leaf clovers or any other material possession. When one places their trust in such to deliver them or take care of them, it is idolatry. Idolatry is well and alive today in the lives of many.

Paul called a coveter an idolater and no idolaters have an inheritance in the kingdom of God (Eph. 5:5). Sometimes our relationship with others causes us to put them before our God. We serve and tend to them more than our heavenly Father. This too is idolatry.

The rich young ruler approached Jesus and asked, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (Mark 10:17) "You know the commandments, 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.' And he said to Him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up.' Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, 'One thing you lack; go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.' But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property." (Mark 10:19-22) The commandments weren't a problem for this young man. If you were to ask him, in his mind he was a lover of God. Jesus revealed his heart. He couldn't give up the one thing he loved the most, his possessions and money. *He was an idolater!* He didn't love God with all his heart, soul, mind and strength.

What about us? It takes an honest, open heart to look at yourself and ask, "Is there anything or anyone that I'm not willing to give up, right now at this moment, to follow the Lord?" That includes our family! Maybe it's time to sit and take a serious examination of our own lives, what we sacrifice for and who we really serve and love. Think about it!!!

Brent