



Church of Christ

August 13, 2000

204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

Heart to Heart...

If you were asked, "Who is your god?" what would you say? Most would probably say their God is Jehovah God of heaven and earth. We claim the God of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and the Father of mercies. Many will recite something they have learned about the God of the Bible or some deep conviction about the doctrine they have learned.

The God we speak about and the god we serve can be two different gods. A person's god is what he cares about the most! What he prizes the most in his life! What he serves on a daily basis and does costly things for! What is at the center of their thinking day in and day out!

In the days of Rome, the Romans worshiped *Mars*, their god of war. Today, we would consider such as stupid and empty but is that really true? Not hardly! We have made out our nation to be great because of all the high technology of our war machines and bombs. It brings us security in this false god. They worshiped *Bacchus*, the god of wine, drunkenness and sexuality. What do many serve, care about and think about? The goddess *Aphrodite* was the goddess of sex. Look how many are obsessed with sex and the things that are tied to it. Pornography and sex is a big draw in the minds of many. There was *Venus*, the goddess of beauty. Look how many are obsessed with physical beauty and all the surgeries to enhance their physical appearance. Let me ask again, "Who is your god?" What do you sacrifice for? What do you expend your efforts toward? What controls your thoughts and you place your money toward? What do you talk about the most? It takes an honest heart to look at this.

Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." (Matt. 6:24) *No one can serve two masters!* It is impossible! Our Lord said that. He is also the head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He might come to have first place in everything. (Col. 1:18) He either has *first place* or we serve another god. Paul taught the pagan Athenians, "...for in Him we live and move and exist..." (Acts 17:28) Paul knew who his God was and whom he served with a sincere heart. *I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and delivered Himself up for me.* (Gal. 2:20)

We have many needs in our lives. We have even more desires but our needs and desires were never intended to be our gods. To expend energy in the pursuit of education, recreation, literary achievements is not sinful when kept within their means but for many all their efforts are put toward these things. They become their first love. To build a life on anything else but God is an empty, failing pursuit. The God who died for us, calls us to choose Him, to follow Him with a whole heart. He forbids us to follow any other god whether it be a drive, need, person or object. He calls us to make Him the center of our thoughts, actions and desires. To please Him in all respects because He is worthy and capable of filling our every need. Moses said it best, *I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this you're your life...* (Deut. 30:19-20) Think about it!!!

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