

Giving to Get Free: From the Heart of a Pastor

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- I. **The Problem:** “While these people were worshiping the Lord, they were serving their idols.” II Kings 17:41

- II. **A Description of the Problem (I John 2:15-17):**
 - A. The appeal of this world and the idols of our hearts flow from...
 1. lust for physical pleasures.
 2. the ambition to buy everything that appeals to us.
 3. a pride in our possessions and status.

 - B. Our love for the world and the idols of our hearts are squeezing out our love for God.

 - C. The world and all of its passionate desires will pass away.

- III. **The Solution:** Jesus

Dear God,

I know I have been living for myself and this world. My heart's desire is to do Your will, but I confess and agree with You that I am a sinner. My heart and my actions have not been pleasing to You. This morning, I am trusting in Jesus and His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of my sins. I know I cannot be set free from my desires and this world by myself. I am asking You to change me and transform me from the inside out with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Dear Heavenly Father,

I know as a child of Yours, I have been trying to worship You and yet live for this world at the same time. I confess to You this morning, I have been convicted of the following idol or idols: _____ . Thank You for the forgiveness I have in Christ because of His death and resurrection. I know in and of myself, I will continue to live for this world. Therefore, I am asking that by Your Holy Spirit, You will transform my heart so my love for You will be greater than my desire for the pleasures of this world.

Amen.