

St John Church of Christ

August 2, 2020

ONLINE

Children's Bible Class

10:00 A.M.

Join Pete and Penelope online at 10:00 A.M.

Adult Bible Class

10:30 - 10:45 A.M.

The Apostle Paul describes a new kind of love – Agape: Christian Love – by passing it through a prism and giving us a 15-color rainbow. Today's description concerns "Love Rejoices in the Truth."

LIVE & ONLINE

Worship

11:00 - 11:45 A.M.

You can join us live at the building or online at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOOPdVv3YaCn-L1QnT2BftQA>

There are simple links to follow from our website: <https://StJohnChurchofChrist.org>.

(CCLI #244012t9)

The Bruised and Bleeding Pharisee

Jesus reserved some of his sharpest criticisms for the Pharisees, the extremely religious people of his time. Even the rabbis described seven different kinds of Pharisees. One of them was called the "bruised and bleeding Pharisee." This poor man had trouble dealing with the temptations that were all around him. When he saw a beautiful woman, he would shut his eyes and, as a consequence, he was always tripping over things and walking into walls, hence "bruised and bleeding."

It's easy to identify with this poor fellow. Temptations seem to be all around us, and it's hard to know how to deal with them. Jesus didn't make it any easier on us when he said, "I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be



thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell" (Matthew 5:28-30).

Let me make four suggestions. First, be careful how you dress and how you behave. It is one thing to be attractive, and it is quite another to cause other people to sin!

Second, even if you are careful, temptation is bound to come. Have you ever been surprised by the results of an innocent internet search? Just remember Martin Luther's observation. "You may not be able to stop a bird from landing in your head, but you can keep them from building a nest!"

Third, remember the adage: "nature abhors a vacuum." If you want to get a handle on your

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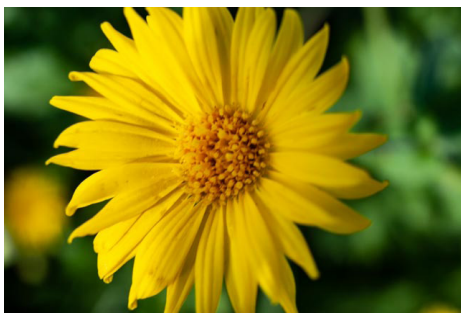


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thoughts, you have to think about something else. Just try not to think about poisonous snakes. How are you doing? It seems all I can do is think about rattlesnakes crawling out of the canyon and into my garage until I substitute a different thought - like thinking about chocolate!

Fourth, keep it in context! It is wrong to treat people as things, and that's precisely what lust does. It is the desire to use someone. But if you put a person "in context" - she is someone's wife, daughter, sister (or he is someone's brother, husband, son) - that helps counteract the sin. Paul gave Timothy just this advice. "Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity" (1 Timothy 5:1, 2).

Of course, you could just try closing your eyes, but you better invest in a box of bandaids.



This week's Photo Safari took me to Pratt Sand Hills Wildlife Area and Rattlesnake Creek. Kansas truly is the "Sunflower State."

For Your Prayers

Please pray for our loved ones.

- Shirley fell this week and broke her hip as well as injuring her head. She was taken to Wichita for surgery.
- Carol will be having carpal tunnel surgery tomorrow and the second surgery six weeks later. We pray it will ease her pain!
- We've been praying for little two-year old Maren in Great Bend. She is having difficulty and the doctors are trying some different procedures. Your prayers are sorely needed.
- Terry continues to recover from his hip surgery.
- Our condolences go out to Marilyn whose son Warren passed away this last week. Services were held Friday morning.
- William Owens has shared some sad news with us. David Holguin in Piedras Negras Mexico, one of the sons of Don Hector Holguin, has died of cancer. He was about 50 years old. If you would like to send condolences, the email address is hectoresau@hotmail.com.

We also want to remember our Church family around the world, especially in Mexico and India as they face the challenges brought on by this pandemic.

Join us online Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

<https://StJohnChurchOfChrist.org/sermons>

