

St John Church of Christ

March 7, 2021

Worship
Service

Premiers
Sunday at 11:00



Welcome to Worship!

We're glad you're here with us!
We've been in quarantine for
so long, it's good to be back.

Our Adult Bible Class is still
being shared online at 10:30.
Just visit

www.StJohnChurchOfChrist.org

and select "Sermons" from the
menubar at the top, or click
this link to visit our page on
YouTube:

[St. John Church of Christ](https://www.youtube.com/stjohnchurchofchrist)



Buy a Box of Band-aids!

Jesus reserved some of his sharpest criticisms for the Pharisees, the extremely religious people of his time. Even the rabbis described seven different varieties 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, consequently, he was always tripping over things and walking into walls, hence the "Bruised and Bleeding Pharisee."

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 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 hair, but you can keep it from building a nest!"

Third, remember the adage: "Nature abhors a vacuum." If you want to get a handle on your thoughts, you must think about something else. If someone tells you to not think about poisonous snakes, what do you do? It seems all I can think about are rattlesnakes crawling out of the canyon and into my garage, until I substitute a different thought – like thinking about chocolate!

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Fourth, keep it in context! It is wrong to treat people as things and that's exactly 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 temptation. The Apostle 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 then you better buy a box of Band-aids.



News & Prayer Requests

Marilyn's continues to recover from her surgery and appreciates your prayers on her behalf.

Let's pray for Gayle. She had to have a blood transfusion last week and continues to recover at home.

We extend our deepest sympathy and prayers to Joe who's sister-in-law passed away unexpectedly.

Deborah was in John's youth group forty years ago in Oregon, but now she and her family live in Kansas City. In addition to wrestling with MS, Deborah has

just been diagnosed with cancer. Please pray for her as she undergoes surgery next week.

Please continue to pray for John's friend, Paul, as he battles cancer in Washington state, and let's continue to pray for Curtis in Pratt as he wrestles with cancer.

Don't forget to pray for little Emersyn, the daughter of Billy and Brianna Milton of Hudson and for Mauren the daughter of the Turner's in Great Bend. We are receiving good reports on the progress of both little girls.

A Place for Pictures

Each week, we're trying to include some pictures of Kansas (or at least a picture that a Kansian took). Send your best shots to john@johnmckeel.com and watch for them to appear here.

