Pastor’s Pen: Wrath & Love

Last month I encountered plenty of moral outrage: shock about the rough handling of a United Airlines passenger by police, dismay about the gassing of civilians in Syria, and horror when a young man murdered a stranger just to post the killing on the internet. Situations like these rightly provoke a gut reaction from us; “That’s just not right!” This sense of moral outrage should be a reference point for you as you read the Westminster Shorter Catechism (WSC) Q. & A. 82-87.

This brief section makes a couple points and then offers the logical conclusion: 1) We can’t fully obey God’s law, but actually break it every day. 2) Every sin deserves “God’s wrath.” Therefore, 3) we deserve God’s wrath.

What? We deserve God’s wrath? This is an uncomfortable thought. Raised singing “Jesus Loves Me,” we are often resistant to the idea that God is wrathful. What could the catechism possibly mean? Remember your own horror, moral outrage, and shock at the atrocities that occur in the world. Remember your own anger when your taxes go up or your property values go down! We all can get angry when we think something is wrong.

If we, fallible human beings, are morally outraged at senseless violence and injustice, how much more the perfect God? “God’s wrath in the Bible is never the capricious, self-indulgent, irritable, morally ignoble thing that human anger so often is. It is, instead, a right and necessary reaction to objective moral evil.”

In other words, it’s possible to understand God’s wrath as the flip-side of God’s love, which though tender, is not sentimental. It is precisely because God loves us that God is morally outraged at the evil in the world – and in our lives. Think about it: we only let those we dislike or don’t care about go the way of self-destruction. Likewise, God loves us enough

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Canadian theologian J. I. Packer, in Knowing God, 151.
to take sin seriously – to right wrongs, to end injustice, and to stop wickedness.

God does this not by letting his wrath destroy us, but through Jesus Christ, offering himself as a sacrifice on the cross in love. The catechism reminds us that the proper response to this love is faith: “To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ” (A. 85).

Unhelpfully, we often use the word “faith” to mean “I believe.” For example, if I say, “I have faith in my son’s teachers,” I mean that I believe the teachers will do right by my son.

However, in the WSC, “faith” is not passive “belief.” The catechism defines the faith that saves us as 1) trusting Jesus alone, 2) turning away from our sin, and 3) living a new life. In other words, “faith” begins in belief, but means a whole new way of living – an idea fleshed out in next month’s section of the WSC.

Questions for Reflection:
What injustices upset you most? Do you think God cares about these problems?
How are we complicit in the world’s problems?
How does God’s love correspond to God’s wrath?

Scripture for Reflection:
Romans 5:1-11

Next Month:
WSC Questions & Answers 88-90

Westminster Shorter Catechism Ques. & Ans. 82-87

Q. 82. Is any person able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?
A. No mere person since the fall is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of God, but does daily break them in thought, word and deed. (cont)
Circles meet the 2nd Thursday May 11
Hope Circle at 9:30 am – Fellowship hall
Joy Circle at 1:30 pm Sunquest Village
PW Gathering (all women) May 18th 1:30 pm
Fellowship hall

**PW Safe Birth Campaign**
Quarters save lives!
100 quarters saves one life.
Deposit quarters in the Blue Tube in the East Room

Do something special for your **May Birthday** by donating a penny for each year of your age to the PW’s Birthday Box in the east room. You will help fund their mission projects. Have a special happy birthday!

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**WELCOME**
Congratulations to Garret & Kahlie Smith on the birth of a baby girl Janae Rose born April 22 and weighed 6lbs 10oz.
Proud grandparents are Cy & Teresa Haatvedt and great-grandmother Inez Eddy

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**HURON PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ATTENDED**
**A RETREAT AT CAMP PIONEER!**

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Q. 83. *Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?*
A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

Q. 84. *What does every sin deserve?*
A. Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.

Q. 85. *What does God require of us that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?*
A. To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption.

Q. 86. *What is faith in Jesus Christ?*
A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Q. 87. *What is repentance unto life?*
A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.
The Sr Highs participated in The Urban Plunge Mission in Omaha In March. We helped serve in two food kitchens, helped prepare a meal at a 3rd kitchen, did cleaning at the Abide Omaha mission campus and we made and handed out 85 care packages at the Empty Tomb Ministries after the Sunday church service. It was a very humbling experience for everyone and it was good to be able to serve our God by serving in a place that is very devastated with homelessness, drugs and crime and know that we make a difference. We don’t see this kind of devastation here in Huron and it is good for all of us to see and know that we are needed and can make a difference by serving others.

We would like to do this mission again and invite members of the congregation to go with us and see what a difference we could make.

Tiffanie and Dustin met in 2014. They were engaged January 1, 2016 and married August 6, 2016 at First Presbyterian Church in Huron. For their honeymoon they took a trip to Ireland, where they rented a car and toured the country. In October the couple moved to their first official home together, which is located in Huron. They enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, walking, watching movies, cooking and being outside together. They also take pleasure gardening and making their own salsa, pasta sauce, tomato sauce, cream-style corn, and are open to growing and canning new foods. They enjoy living in Huron, as the overall size provides things to do and isn’t far to drive from other attractions, but is still small enough you know most of the people in the community.

Tiffanie grew up in Lemmon, which is home for the World’s largest Petrified Wood Park. Her parents are Fred & Nadine Gebhart of Lemmon, SD, and has one brother, Tanner, who works as a lineman in various states. Tiffanie is a 2004 graduate of Lemmon High School. She attended Black Hills State University in Spearfish, SD, graduating in May of 2008 with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing and a minor in Management Information Systems. Tiffanie has been working at M-O Federal Credit Union in Huron since June of 2008 as the Marketing Coordinator. She volunteers as a Huron Chamber Ambassador, is Secretary of the Federal Employees’ Program Council, President of the Central Chapter of Credit Unions, a member of the Huron Young Professionals, and participates in a local bowling league.

Dustin grew up in Huron. His parents are Wade & Janeen Kouf and Deb & Steve Anderson, all of Huron. Dustin has one brother, Marshall (Angie), who has three children: Dillon, Delaney and Dixon. Dustin is a 2001 graduate of Huron High School. He attended Lake Area Technical Institute of Watertown, SD, graduating in May of 2003 with an Associate’s degree in Marketing, Management & Sales. Dustin has been working at Lincoln Auto since before high school as it is the business that has been in the Kouf family since 1953. Lincoln Auto is an auto salvage business specializing in new and quality recycled auto parts. In addition to the auto parts business, Lincoln Auto offers 24-hour towing and recovery on anything from motorcycles to semi-trucks, as well as auto unlocking.

The couple is looking forward to the camping/fishing trips they have planned this summer, but are most excited about the trip they have planned to travel around Oregon. While there, they will also take time to visit family and friends who live in the area.
LOGOS Carnival Booth
The Sr High’s have raised $725 towards their goal of $1500 to build decks on the front and the steps of the back doors of the cabins at Pioneer Camp. We will continue to work towards our goal and the decks and steps will be installed the 19th and 20th of May. If you can help us please drop off your contribution at the church and mark it Pioneer Camp. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support.

Another $775.00 needed for the challenge!!

Logos Classes 2016-17

LOGOS

AWARDS

FRIENDS OF LOGOS – MAGGIE CAUDELL

CUP
STOMP
CORTNEY
GRiffith

VIOLA LEHR
BECKY CASPER

SPOON HANG
COLTON MCNEIL

CANDY GUESS
COOPER LETCHER
To The family and friends of Betty Decker
The family of Kenny Koops (Josh’s grandfather)
The family of Betty Orr, Shirley Duxbury’s sister-in-law
Idel McDonald on the death of her twin Varner Beals.

Assisted Living, Nursing Homes & Home Bound

SunQuest Village: Kathleen Amundson, Shirley Fullerton, Lorraine Jacobson, Idel McDonald, Eva Vilhauer
Violet Tschetter Ione Bucky
StoneyBrook Suites: Madelyn Nichelson
SunQuest Healthcare Center: Henry Sievers, Out-of-Town Nursing Homes: Jill Baker.
Courtyard Apts: Marilyn Rogers, Ruth Winter
Home Bound: Mahalia Connell

Attendance

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Elder of the Month: Louise Van Poll
Deacon of the Month: Barb Daugherty

Volunteers for Prayer Chain

#1
Greg & Donna Hepper 352-3621
Vi Magness 352-5377 or 8759
Sue Gose 352-8104

#2
Frances Langbehn 352-4079
Bev Erdahl 352-4746
Marlene Gambar 352-5219
Cam Galliger 352-4928
Mona Kotas 352-9517
Brad Magness 352-9545

To join a prayer chain, please call the church office.

Members
Roger Bierstedt  Mahalia Connell  Charles (Al) Katz
Kyle Klusman  Lisa Hepper  Ron Hastings
Alan Schmidt  David Hook  Madelyn Nickelson
Ron Reed  Brandee Throckmorton

Family & Friends
Craig & Bonnie Atkins (they are both in cancer treatment)
Jack Alexander
Michaela Biel (Dick & Pam Biel’s daughter-in-law)
Craig Connell (Mahalia’s son)
Kim Crump (Galliger’s granddaughter)
Joyce Gardner (Sharon Hastings cousin)
Lonna Guffin (friend of David Hook)
Larry Claypool (Renea Katz’s father)
Arbadella Huber (Dick Biel’s aunt)
Ervin Krutzfeldt
Gladys Hrdlicka (Donna Meiers’ mother)
Tami Israel (friend of Barb Peterson)
Cloe Jesson (Marlene Gambar’s friend).
Mary Louise & Leslie Jensen (Brenda Schmidt’s parents)
Ginny LaFortune (friend of Barb Peterson)
Nakita Maddox (friend of Becki Lemke)
Janelle Martinez (Louise Van Poll’s friend in the Peace Corp)
Kim Mattke (Dawn Meink’s friend)
Phyllis Miedema (Adele Jacobson’s mother)
Glen Millage (Pastor Andrew’s uncle)
Patricia Moore (Greg Hepper’s aunt)
Susan Munion (Galliger’s friend)
Marion (Wold) Martin (friend of Lori Magness)
Roxi Miller (friend of Diane Clayton)
Kathi Mueller (wife of Mike and daughter-in-law of Karen)
Priscilla Mueller (Dick Biel’s aunt)
Ron & Doretta Nelson (sister of Berneice Muilenburg)
Patty Ruehle (Chuck Groth’s sister)
Rich Sabalier (friend of Berneice Muilenburg)
Melvin Schlimgen (Donna Hepper’s dad)
Marilyn Schiekoff (Phyliss Lemke’s sister)
Phyllis Schmidt (Alan’s mother)
Sonnie Schimke (grandson of Merle Schimke)
Marcia Pietz Solie
Patricia (Arth) & Louie Timp (friends of Ron & Sharon Hastings)
James Teer (Mona Kotas’ brother-in-law)
Amy Weller (Dar King’s daughter)
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**May 2017**