

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 1

June 10, 2018

Issue 13

## OH BE CAREFUL! (Part 2)

Ronnie Scherffius

### OH BE CAREFUL LITTLE EYES WHAT YOU SEE

In our study last week we noted the great difficulty of turning the tide against pornography. According to a 2003 Barna Research study 38% of adults feel it is “morally acceptable” to view pornography. We concluded that discussion pondering if such statistics pertained only to the world or if Christians also battle with keeping their hearts and minds pure by protecting their eyes.

It should first be emphasized that Christians are human beings and often our spirits are willing but the weakness of the flesh causes us to stumble. An April 2007 CNN report revealed just how great a threat pornography is to Christian people. (note: we are using the term *Christian* in an accommodative sense) According to the report, 70% of Christians admitted to struggling with pornography in their daily lives. A 2006 poll by Christian Net found that 50% of all Christian men and 20% of all Christian women surveyed said that they were “addicted to pornography.”

Some suggest the term addiction is too strong and that compulsion is the preferred terminology to describe the effects. In fact, studies show that over time many can develop a compulsion to pornography causing them to need more of it and more hard core versions of it just to feel normal — similar to mood altering drugs. [[fightthenewdrug.com](http://fightthenewdrug.com)] The reason for this is because of dopamine. Dopamine is a chemical in our brain—also known as a neurotransmitter—that transmits nerve cell signals. When something we perceive to be good is generated in our systems dopamine neurons are activated. The level of dopamine released when viewing por-

nography causes a dependency that drives one to view more and more of it even when they know it to be wrong. This fact does not relieve one from their responsibility of violating God’s laws, but it does help us understand that this is a serious issue **and** that to keep from being *overcome* with such sinful deeds, just as one should never take the first drink, one should never take the first peek at pornographic images!

Furthermore, consider the great hero of the Old Testament, King David. David’s life was so exceptional that God testified of him saying, “I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart” (Acts 13:22). Yet, David was tempted when he **allowed his eyes** to look upon another man’s wife: “And it came to pass in an evening tide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king’s house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. And David sent and enquired after the woman” (2 Samuel 11:2-3).

David was not careful to keep his eyes from that which he should not see. Consider the domino effect that followed: David committed adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of another man; David practiced deceit to cover his sin; David caused an innocent man to be killed so that his sin could further be concealed. Consider also this inspired epithet of David’s life: “David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from anything that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite” (1 Kings 15:5). How desperately all must be careful what we allow our eyes to see!

## The Kindness Line

By: Brett Petrillo

Not only can we learn this lesson from David but also from Job. Knowing the temptation that could come from viewing such things Job declared, "I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?" (Job 31:1) John Gill, noted 18th century theologian and commentator wrote of Job's statement:

[Job mad a covenant] not to look upon a woman, and wantonly gaze at her beauty, lest his heart should be drawn thereby to lust after her; for the eyes are inlets to many sins, and particularly to uncleanness, of which there have been instances, both in bad men and good men...Job entered into a solemn engagement with himself, laid himself under a strong obligation, as if he had bound himself by a covenant, made a resolution in the strength of divine grace, not to employ his eyes in looking on objects that might ensnare his heart, and lead him to the commission of sin; he made use of all ways and means, and took every precaution to guard against it; and particularly this, to shut or turn his eyes from beholding what might be alluring and enticing to him. [JOHN GILL'S EXPOSITION OF THE ENTIRE BIBLE]

Wives and mothers should be ever mindful of magazines, television programs, and other media that might accidentally give access of impure images to their husbands and sons realizing that once that image is seen, it is not easily purged from the memory. As the psalmist wrote, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes...it shall not cleave to me" (Psalm 101:3).

Next week will note further our children's song, 'Oh Be Careful' with regards to being careful *little ears* and *little mouth*.

A lady was waiting in line at the grocery store check out. The lines were unexpectedly long on this day. Ahead of her, she could see something being passed along from the front of the line. It was an envelope. When it finally reached her, she curiously took a look inside. Inside was about \$50 in cash and a note which read, "Take it if you need it, if not, please pass it on." Not needing the money herself, she passed it on. However, she watched the envelope make its way down the line, curious what other people would do. Some who were in need took a few dollars. The best part, though, was that several others who weren't in need were adding money to the envelope!

Kindness stands out. It makes people's day. It can impact the future. If anyone should understand the deep impact kindness can make, it's Christians. Most Christians are, or at least should be, exposed to tremendous acts of kindness in the church. We've seen people give up time, money, sleep, comfort, personal well being, their own wishes and desires, and much more simply to help someone else out. This is exactly the way it should be! This is what Galatians 6:10 is all about, "So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."

These little acts of kindness aren't in vain. It builds a reputation that is needed in the church. The church should be a shining light for our communities (Matthew 5:14-16). Kindness can be one powerful light.

Kindness is a rarity in our world. This is the perfect opportunity for the church to show what true Christian kindness looks like!

*Be Kind*

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of June 10, 2018

### **Sunday Morning:**

Announcements: Jeff Harris  
Scripture Reading: Dylan Herring

### **Lord's Supper & Offering**

Bread: Doug Jobes  
Fruit of the Vine: Dennis Bryson  
Offering: Bryant Siegel  
Assist: Richard Tisue, Bryce Dolan, Curtis Scherffius

**Sunday Evening:** Doug Jobes, Dennis Bryson

### **Prayer**

A.M. Opening: Lupe Escojido  
A.M. Closing: Rex Horst  
P.M. Opening: Larry Nuckels  
P.M. Closing: Wayne Martin

**Ushers:** Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

**Wednesday Devotional:** Mark FitzSimmons

**Open/Close Building:** Jobes Family

**Sound System:** Scott DeDear

### **Greeters:**

Will Cleveland  
Allen Clifton  
Don Lynn

Prepare Communion: Christian Sneeringer

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### **How Would We Feel?**

If God gave us the same amount of time and attention that we devote to Him?

If God offered as many excuses as we do? And if the excuses were no more justifiable than ours?

If God withheld His blessings from us as we withhold our offerings from Him?

If God's promises were no more certain than ours?

—selected—

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Sunny Glen Children's Home is requesting the following items:

Salad Dressings

Gallon Freezer Bags

Please place the items in the donation box in the hallway.

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

DON WALKER, who was in the hospital last week; DEE GILPATRICK, who is at home recovering from broken fingers.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 13: Wed. summer series— speaker Mark Fitz-Simmons

June 20: Wed. summer series—speaker Patrick Hammack

June 24: 4th Sunday Evening Fellowship meal

June 27: Wed. summer series—speaker Will Cleveland

July 28: Midtown hosts Summer Youth Series @ 5pm

## IN THE AREA

June 21: Summer Youth Series @ Mathis

June 28: Area wide teen summer series @ Odem

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Helen Cannady (10); Jeff Harris (14)

Happy Anniversary: Michael & Shirley Page (14)

## KEEP IN PRAYER

### MIDTOWN MEMBERS

Roy Arnot	Ann Pantel
Jeff Cannady	Della Rampley
Dee Gilpatrick	Clark Withers
Sandra Marie	

### SHUT-INS

Lucille Hawkins	Glenodine Pitts
Faye Henderson	Bob Smith
Sandy Malone	

### FRIENDS & FAMILY

Victor Benitez (brother of Virginia Escojido)	Antonio Benitez (brother of Virginia Escojido)
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Kim Neel-Farthing (daughter of Joyce)	Bert Haynes (father of Pam Stryker)
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Vikram Gottam  
(brother-in-law of Archana Verma)

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

# MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Elders:**

Will Cleveland  
Tom Pitchford

**Deacons:**

Adrian Cannady  
Mark FitzSimmons  
Doug Jobs  
Bryant Siegel

**Minister:** Ronnie Scherffius**Secretary:** Nina Siegel**TIMES OF SERVICES**

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM  
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM  
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM  
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

**RECORD OF ATTENDANCE**

Week of June 3, 2018

Bible Class.....123  
A.M. Worship.....150  
P.M. Worship.....97  
Wednesday Bible Study.....108

Offering      \$4,951.03

**QUICK REFERENCE**

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

**Confession**

Confess Him.....Mat. 10:32-33

With mouth.....Rom. 10:9-10

Acts 8:37; Phil. 2:9-10; John 12:42-43

**SUPPORTED WORKS**

India - Mani Pagidipalli

New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

**GO PAPERLESS!**

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