

First Reformed Church

Reflections for January 17, 2021

I think that there are two mistakes we can make about Satan, demons, and devils. One is like the beliefs of Ginger who literally sees a demon behind every bush. Whether it is the temptation to eat too many donuts, or bad hair Satan is responsible. If I am suffering a physical sickness it is Satan. If I drop a hammer on my foot it is Satan. If I trip and fall it is Satan. Everything is Satan. When around Ginger you wonder if God is sovereign or not. On the other hand, is Bob who says he does not believe in the ancient mythology of demons and Satan. After all, we live in 2021, not ancient Babylon. With all the advances of science we know that they do not exist. I believe both are errors.

C.S. Lewis put it like this, "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves (that is the devils) are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist (Bob above) or a magician (Ginger above) with the same delight." In other words, in both cases Satan wins. Satan and demons win when all you can do is think about them and they win if you believe it is ancient mythology.

In this week's text Satan tries to sabotage Jesus from following his identity and mission. Satan directly confronts Jesus about his identity as a son of Abba, loved and delighted in. He wants to move him away from his identity and his mission to save the world from sin. Satan also seeks to sabotage us by using other people, world views, cultural stimulus to move us away from our identity and God's dream for us in the world. Satan tempts us to find our identity in what we do...what people say about us...or what we have. Our identity is that we are sons and daughters of Abba, loved and delighted in. Satan even though in reality is the prince of darkness, masquerades as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14), seeking to sabotage your true identity by making what you do, what people say about you and what you have really attractive and the desirable realities of life. How do we stay grounded in our true identity? We are going to think about this on Sunday as we watch and listen as Jesus faces the temptations of Satan...and remains true to who he is.

Some passages to possibly read: [Matthew 4:1-11](#); [Ephesians 6:10-18](#); [2 Corinthians 11:13-15](#).
Grace upon Grace,
Verlyn

Sabotage

Matthew 4:1-11

- Sabotage: deliberately destroy, damage, or obstruct something, for your own advantage or satisfaction.
- You are the son or daughter of Abba...
- World tells us identity is found in other places:

What we do

What people say about us

What we have

Temptation # 1: Do something...be relevant...

Jesus' Response: You must listen to the voice of Abba...

Temptation # 2: Be spoken well of by people...do something spectacular...

Jesus' Response: Trust what Abba says...not test him...

Temptation: # 3: Have a lot... Be powerful...

Jesus' Response: Worship and Adore Abba Alone

Good News Truths

1: Listen to the voice of Abba...you are the beloved

2: Abba knows you and loves you

3: Life is Found in Abba alone

NURSING HOME & ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS:

Whispering Heights: **Verna Boer, Adriana Dykstra, Faye Gort, Marilyn Van Holland**. The Legacy Living, Gillette, WY: **Mary Boer**; Pleasant Acres, Hull: **Cornie & Ann Jansen**; Bethany Home, Brandon, SD: **Bill & Alma Landegent**.

CHURCH SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES:

Brian and Elizabeth Bruxvoort in AK; **Amy and Seung Kim** in Bangladesh; **Tom and Aichatou Johnson** in Pella, IA; **Brian and Donna Renes** in Sioux Center; **John & Lynn Hubers** in Ethiopia.

If you or a family member have a prayer concern and would like to have either the elders or the whole church to pray with you or for you, please contact your calling elder or a member of the consistory.

Community Announcements

A new *Love & Learn* class session is starting on Tuesday, January 19th at 6:45 to 8:15 PM at Trinity CRC in Rock Valley. Classes available this winter are:

- **Boundaries (NEW!)** – learn how to set healthy boundaries in all your relationships including yourself.
- **Faith & Finances** – a common sense approach to managing day to day finances. Gain knowledge and learn skills of good financial practices and systems.
- **GriefShare** – led by caring people who have experienced their own journey of grief, this support group will offer biblical concepts for healing.
- **“Have a New Kid by Friday”** – practical tips and tools in parenting to create a loving, God-centered environment for life’s greatest blessing: your children
- **Affirming Potential** – evaluate the physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual areas of your life.
- **Redemptive Compassion** – interactive Bible study that explores HOW to love and serve effectively as God’s people.

To learn more about these classes or register call Love INC at 712-476-5990 or email loveinc3@premieronline.net

Single Mom's Retreat: Throughout this retreat on February 5th-7th there will be plenty of stories, speakers, pampering time, discussions, mentoring, delicious food, and a positive experience for you to take home. We promise to support and provide you a weekend you have been needing! We will provide you with an environment to share and grow in! You will receive the love of Jesus and we will

encourage you in your relationship with Him! The theme comes from John 14:2 'Abide in Me'. RSVP by January 31st by visiting our website at www.inspirationhills.org.

Summer Camp Registration Opens Feb. 1st! Join us for this year's theme "Renewed" from Eph. 4:23

Are you or someone you know in need of a safe, decent, and affordable place to live? Siouxland Habitat for Humanity is accepting partner family applications for our homeownership program for a future home in Hull. Application forms are available at the Hull City Office, Hull Public Library, and online at <http://siouxlandhabitat.org/our-programs/home-ownership/>. Completed applications are due by February 17. If you have questions, please contact Kurt Franje, 712-476-2804 or email kfranje@siouxlandhabitat.org

Art of Marriage Retreat – March 12th – 13th!

Inspiration Hills is presenting FamilyLife's Art of Marriage! See marriage the way God intended it to be as a true art form. For more than 40 years, FamilyLife has been helping couples understand God's plan for relationships. The Art of Marriage weaves together expert teaching, real-life stories, humorous vignettes, and more to portray both the challenges and the beauty of God's design. Join us to discover how to renew and refresh your marriage during this weekend. Visit www.inspirationhills.org to register today!

Elders:

Dave Bliet '21
Rod Netten '21
Larry Landegent '22
Dave Van Holland '22
Dan Taylor '23
Gary Miller '23

Deacons

Kevin Bouwman '21
Ryan Blankespoor '21
Tim Landegent '22
Micah Vis '22
Todd Netten '23
Brian Vande Hoef '23

2021 ELDER & DEACON CALLING PAIRS:

Gary Miller & Todd Netten = Baatz – Claussen
Dan Taylor & Brian Vande Hoef = De Jager - Juffer
Dave Bliet & Kevin Bouwman = Kelderman - Miller
Rod Netten & Ryan Blankespoor = Netten – Van Berkum
Larry Landegent & Micah Vis = Van Den Top - Vande Stroet
Dave Van Holland & Tim Landegent = Vande Vegte - Zeutenhorst

CONSISTORY OFFICERS & COMMITTEES FOR 2020:

Vice-President:

Dan Taylor

Asst. Vice President:

Dave Bliet

Audio:

Kevin Bouwman

Chairman of Deacons:

Kevin Bouwman

Clerk:

Larry Landegent

Treasurer for Church Ministry Fund:

Todd Netten

Sacraments:

Dave Bliet
Gary Miller

Benevolent:

Micah Vis
Tim Landegent
Shirleen Post

Executive Committee:

Larry Landegent
Dan Taylor
Dave Bliet
Kevin Bouwman
Todd Netten

Kids Block: 476-2674

Ralph Bousema
Gary Miller

Property:

Ralph Bousema
Myron Van Ginkel

Church Use:

Sheri Bousema
Larry Landegent

Kevin Bouwman

Women's Ministries Service Reps:

Bonnie Hoogendoorn, Sandi Koldenhoven, Sandi Scholten

Education:

Jennifer Taylor
Cal Ver Mulm
Dave Van Holland
Ryan Blankespoor
Kristi Van Kekerix
Steve Van Den Top

Youth:

Jennifer Taylor
Austin Koedam

VBS:

Heather De Jager
Katie Vande Vegte

Missions:

Cal Ver Mulm
Bill Bouwman
Ryan Blankespoor
Pete & Ruth Vande Stroet
Wilbur & Madelyn Vander Heul
Rod Netten
Rich Schwanke

Music & Worship:

Pastor Verlyn
Jane Ver Mulm
Brittany Wiebe
Jennifer Taylor
Ruth Vande Stroet
Dave Bliet

Nursery:

Niki Netten
Meghan Vande Kamp

Decorating:

Sandi Scholten
Deb Kempema
Jennifer Taylor