

Johnny Cash famously sang, “I keep a close watch on this heart of mine / I keep my eyes wide open all the time / I keep the ends out for the tie that binds / Because you're mine, I walk the line.” His love for his new bride inspired him to “walk the line.” Cash’s devotion is heart-warming.

But, intriguingly, in 2009, German scientist Jan Souman placed a group of test subjects in empty fields, blindfolded them and told them, “Walk in a straight line!” Some of them walked straight for a dozen paces or so; others even walked straight for a hundred paces. But in the end, every single one of the subjects circled back toward their points of origin. All of them.

Dr. Souman told NPR, “They have no idea. They were thinking they were walking in a straight line all the time.” Though they presented various hypotheses, Souman and his team were unable to decipher why every test subject circled back.

While Cash’s song reflects how we want to live, Dr. Souman’s experiment shines a light on how we actually do live. Over the past few months looking at the Westminster Shorter Catechism (WSC), we’ve seen how humanity has tied itself into knots, but how God has chosen us, redeemed us, and freed us through Jesus Christ to enjoy new lives. In redeeming us, Christ has won our love. How should we love Jesus? By loving what he loves, by giving him our hearts, by walking his line.

When my wife Alissa and I were first dating in college, I made a number of early missteps, doing or saying things she didn’t appreciate. (For instance, I learned the hard way that she didn’t appreciate my honking the horn of my rusty brown Chevy van in front of the ladies’ dormitory when picking her up for dates.) I jokingly told her, “You need to write all this stuff down for me in an ‘Alissa Handbook.’” Because I was growing to love her, I wanted to learn how to please her.

http://www.npr.org/sections/krulwich/2011/06/01/131050832/a-mystery-why-can-t-we-walk-straight
The WSC tells us that Jesus has given us a “handbook” describing what he loves and how we can best love him in return. It’s the moral law of the Bible, which is summarized in the famous “Ten Commandments.” This month’s section of the WSC (printed below) takes us through the first four of the commandments, which deal directly with our relationship with God. The WSC summarizes them as:

1. Always put God first my life.
2. Worship God according to God’s Word, not my whims or preferences.
3. Honor God and all the things of God with my heart and words.
4. Honor God with my time, especially by keeping the Sabbath day for worship and service.

These are God’s priorities for me, showing me how to take seriously the most important relationship in my life. As I read them, I realize that I have fallen short. Yet – as a Christian (that is, “one-who-is-saved-by-grace-and-not-works”), I do not despair, but rather am motivated by God’s Word to love him more fully with my heart and mind, soul and strength in the days to come.

Questions for Reflection:

What’s your first reaction when you hear the phrase, “God’s law.” Positive? Negative? Why?

Why does God give Christians his law?

How does it help to think of God’s law as a handbook for loving God – rather than a rulebook for earning God’s love?

Scriptures for Reflection:

John 14:15-21
Matthew 28:16-20
1 John 5:2-3

Next Month:
WSC Questions & Answers 63-81

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Andrew
Q. 39. What is the duty which God requires of man [humanity]?
A. The duty which God requires of man [humanity] is obedience to his revealed will.

Q. 40. What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?
A. The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience was the moral law.

Q. 41. Where is the moral law summarily comprehended?
A. The moral law is summarily comprehended in the ten commandments.

Q. 42. What is the sum of the ten commandments?
A. The sum of the ten commandments is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.

Q. 43. What is the preface to the ten commandments?
A. The preface to the ten commandments is in these words, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Q. 44. What doth the preface to the ten commandments teach us?
A. The preface to the ten commandments teaches us that because God is the Lord, and our God, and redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments.

Q. 45. Which is the first commandment?
A. The first commandment is, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

Q. 46. What is required in the first commandment?
A. The first commandment requires us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly.

Q. 47. What is forbidden in the first commandment?
A. The first commandment forbids the denying, or not worshipping and glorifying the true God as God, and our God; and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to him alone.

Q. 48. What are we specially taught by these words before me in the first commandment?
A. These words before me in the first commandment teach us that God, who sees all things, taketh notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other god.

Q. 49. Which is the second commandment?
A. The second commandment is, “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.

Q. 50. What is required in the second commandment?
A. The second commandment requires the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in his word.

Q. 51. What is forbidden in the second commandment?
A. The second commandment forbids the worshiping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in his word.

Q. 52. What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment?
A. The reasons annexed to the second commandment are, God's sovereignty over us, his propriety in us, and the zeal he hath to his own worship.

Q. 53. Which is the third commandment?
A. The third commandment is, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."

Q. 54. What is required in the third commandment?
A. The third commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles, attributes, ordinances, word and works.

Q. 55. What is forbidden in the third commandment?
A. The third commandment forbids all profaning or abusing of anything whereby God makes himself known.

Q. 56. What is the reason annexed to the third commandment?
A. The reason annexed to the third commandment is that however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment.

Q. 57. Which is the fourth commandment?
A. The fourth commandment is, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy...."

Q. 58. What is required in the fourth commandment?
A. The fourth commandment requires the keeping holy to God such set times as he hath appointed in his word; expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy sabbath to himself.

Q. 59. Which day of the seven hath God appointed to be the weekly sabbath?
A. From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly sabbath; and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the Christian sabbath.

Q. 60. How is the sabbath to be sanctified?
A. The sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.

Q. 61. What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?
A. The fourth commandment forbids the omission or careless performance of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words or works, about our worldly employments or recreations.

Q. 62. What are the reasons annexed to the fourth commandment?
A. The reasons annexed to the fourth commandment are, God's allowing us six days of the week for our own employments, his challenging a special propriety in the seventh, his own example, and his blessing the sabbath day.
Sunday School begins @ 9:10am
  3yrs-K, 1st-3rd, 4th & 5th, 6th-8th, 9th-12th & two Adults Classes.
Worship at 10:30
Men’s Prayer Breakfast
The men meet for breakfast the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 8:00 am at the Plains for breakfast.

Wednesday Activities
PraiseTeam meets at 5:10
Choir at 6:30

K—8th grade and Senior Highs meet for a meal at 6:00 pm. Members are invited to joy them.
Meal contributions accepted.
Covenant Group meets at 11:00 on the 3rd Wednesday of the month

Thursdays
Circles meet the 2nd Thursday March 10th
Hope Circle at 9:30 am – Fellowship hall
Joy Circle at 1:30 pm Fellowship hall

A non-denominational Bible Study meets every Thursday at 9:30.
Do something special for your March 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!

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

Senior Highs donate quilts they made on their ski trip to Helping Hands and also lend a hand at stocking shelves.
They will go on a mission trip to Omaha in March.

Valentine Dinner
Thank you very much for attending and supporting the 2017 Valentine’s Day Supper. It was a huge success!
Thank you for supporting our youth!
The Old Rugged Cross

On March 7, 1928, a fire broke out in the Sanctuary which nearly destroyed the entire building. Out of the ashes of this disaster, the Church rose up again, and by the following September the Sanctuary was once again filled with the praises of God’s people.

In remembrance of that time and of God’s steadfastness, Ferd Fiala fashioned a rugged cross, made from burned timbers of the original structure, which were discovered in the 1969 remodeling and since that time, it has been a tradition to hang that old rugged cross in the Sanctuary during Lent.

The Cross now hanging in the East entrance was also made by Ferd Fiala to hang in the front of the sanctuary, which it did until 2016 when a replacement was made by Brandon VanOvereschelde to fit below the screen.

Over the years taking the cross down and storing it on it’s side when the old rugged cross was hung up during Lent, the wood of the cross became warped and cracked.

Many wonder why it is uneven, not level, crooked...If you look closely the horizontal arms are level, it is due to the warped wood that other parts are not.

I can vouch that the brackets are level.

Thank you to the crew who found a place and put up this cross for us to enjoy even a bit a skew!

Applications for the J Carroll & Lenora Borah, Dorothy Linette/D. Peterson/First Presbyterian Church Scholarships are in the church office or may be requested by e-mail. Applications are due April 15.

Logos

K - 8th Grade Schedule

March  

1  Ash Wednesday. Attend service as a group. Parents welcome
8  Regular LOGOS night
15  Mission Night-Scavenger Hunt
22  Regular Logos night,
29  Regular Logos night,

April  

5  Regular Logos night,
12  Regular Logos night,
19  Carnival, bring younger siblings
26  End of Year Recognition Potluck

Entire family attends. Spoon Hang & Cup Stomp finals.

Register for Church Camp Soon!

The church pays the camp fee.
Turn your registrations in to the office.

Contributions for Camps may be made through the church. The church provides for all summer camp programs, including VBS, Day Camp and Camp Rim Rock & Pioneer.
Member Highlights
Corinne Wipf

Corinne, daughter of Alfred and Pearl Gange, was born in Aberdeen, lived in Redfield, and moved to Huron when she was eleven years old. She has six siblings; Barb (Skip) Martin lives in Clarkston WA, Bob (Deb) Gange is in Sacramento Calif, Rosetta (Ray) Long lives in Alpena, Ruth (Bob) Allen is in Aurelia, IA and Lloyd (Norma) Gange lives in Colstrip, Montana. Her sister, Gloria, (Allen) Johnson passed away in 1994 in California.

Corinne graduated from Huron High School. She has worked at Raven, Farmer's Market, Smith Jewelry, Randall's, Lewis Drug and retired from Coborn's in 2013. She was married to Clifford Wipf. Their son, Derek and his wife, Kimberly, live in Virgil. He works at Diesel Services where he is a diesel mechanic. Kim is the girls' volley ball and basketball coach in Wolsey. She also works at Don't Spill the Beans. Their children are Ashlyn, A.J., Teagen, Kreighton and Brantley.

Corinne has always liked bowling, camping and motorcycle riding. She used to have her own motorcycle. One year three couples went together on a trip to Canada. They visited three provinces; Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. They got to see the International Peace Gardens and drive on the Going-to-the-Sun-Road which was delightful. They then returned through the Glacier National Park in Montana. But what Corinne loves the most is spending time with her grandchildren.

A few years ago Corinne decided to get an apartment so she could quit shoveling snow among other things. So she sold her home and moved to Clarkston, Washington where her sister, Barb, lives. After a short while she decided she wanted to be closer to her son and family and she returned to Huron.

Derek and Kim had been attending the Presbyterian Church so Corinne started attending. She liked what she experienced. Pastor Andrew follows the Bible and makes it easier to understand. She also enjoyed the Sunday services. So she joined First Presbyterian Church. She liked being part of a Circle but is now taking care of her two youngest grandchildren on the day that the Circle meets. She has helped setting up for funerals and enjoyed the fellowship as they all worked together. Also it is so nice to be able to walk to church as she lives in the Legacy Plaza. No snow to shovel there!
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