

ALT



REFORMED CHURCH

ARTICLES

I Don't Like That Song (Part 12 of Pathways to Maturity)

By Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

Long ago I loved listening to REO Speed Wagon. Glancing at a song list, I quickly remembered "Take it on the Run" which does have a sweet guitar solo, but I really had no idea what the lyrics were about.



Heard it from a friend who

Heard it from a friend who

Heard it from another you been messin' around

They say you got a boyfriend

You're out late every weekend

They're talkin' about you and it's bringin' me down

I guess it is true to some extent that our kids can let things go in one ear and out the other or it just goes over their head, but **music certainly can and does influence our thinking.**

It's been argued that the church learns more of its theology from the songs we sing than the sermons we hear. I'm not sure that's true, but no doubt both

impact our hearts and minds significantly.

I certainly tend to be singing a song from Sunday in my head on Monday over pondering one of my sermon points. **The lyrics of many of these songs impact our hearts and stick in our brains and that is a very good thing.**

At our recent hymn sing, it was clear to me people were picking songs that had had a deep impact on them. (Kudos to the singers for pulling off #5, that was a tough challenge.) It is amazing how quickly the time goes and the requests just keep coming in.

Worship matters! This is my point today. This is the twelfth and final area of competency required by the Alliance for ordination as a pastor. Valuing and understanding that worship is vital for every Christian is fundamental for pastors and members. The humility before God shown in corporate and personal worship is an essential part of following Jesus.

The core competencies for a pastor include having the heart of a worshipper, being able to lead a healthy team to lead worship, and comfortably leading the church in prayer. (There are several more “practitioner competencies” each pastor is required to pursue even once they are ordained.)

Our Covenant Partner Vows call each of us to “worship Jesus as the ruler of all... maintain a life of prayer,... participate in the Lord’s supper, gather with believers regularly...” These are valuable actions, but worship is really about the heart.

Jesus explained this truth to his disciples...

Luke 6:45 (NIV) ⁴⁵ A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

He also bluntly rebuked religious hypocrites with it...

Matthew 15:7–9 (NIV) ⁷ You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

⁸ “These people honor me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me.

⁹ They worship me in vain;

their teachings are merely human rules.’ ”

While we do see that God is the one who softens and changes our hearts (Eek 11:19, 36:26; 1 Sam. 10:9; Titus 3:5), the Bible clearly places the responsibility of our heart-condition on each of us. (Eek. 18:31; Zech 7:12; Acts 8:22).

Our Worship Ministry Team is committed to “Inspire all people to worship Jesus with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.” We want our worship to be “Joyful • Prayerful • Authentic • Flexible • Prepared • Child-friendly • Inviting • Engaging” as our Worship Ministry Core Values state, but the state of your heart is not our responsibility.

As you come to worship on Sunday, how is your heart?

I am often distracted... What are the announcements? How should I start the sermon? Who do I need to pray for? Sometimes, I am annoyed, frustrated or bitter. Then I look to the words we are singing. Things like...

“In the darkness we were waiting without hope, without light. Till from Heaven You came running there was mercy in Your eyes...” (King of Kings)

“How I long to breathe the air of Heaven; Where pain is gone and mercy fills the streets. To look up-on the one who bled to save me And walk with Him for all eternity.” (Hymn of Heaven)

Pray: Lord, change my heart. Help me turn from anger and sin to look to You, the forgiver and Savior. Give me a soft heart and focused mind that I might rejoice in You and give you glory as I join others in worship! Amen

Equipping Children & Families Update

By Lynnae Loomans

HAPPY SUMMER VACATION!!

Summer is approaching and before you start filling your calendars with sports

and cookouts don't forget all the fun stuff happening here at church to keep our children involved:

Summer Jam: June 2nd & 16th

Twists and Turns VBS: June 10th-14th

Family Night: Wednesday, June 12th at 5:30pm-6:30pm

Camp Manitoqua: June 17th-21st

MESSAGES

We would like to thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and cards at the time of our sister, Joyce Frei's death. We are blessed to be a part of a loving and caring church family here in Alto.

-Paul & Audrey Elenius and Jim & Karen Stelsel

Thank you for your kind heart. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Without your donations the Brandon Food Pantry could not stay open.

-Brandon Food Pantry

EVENTS

June Events

June
10-14

Monday-Friday 9-11:30am

Vacation Bible School

Get ready for a fun-filled week of Twists & Turns Vacation Bible School.

June
17-21

Monday-Friday

Camp Manitoqua

Pray for the 3rd-8th graders attending Camp Manitoqua for the week.

June
28-30

Friday-Sunday

Class of 2024 Retreat

Pray for the Class of 2024 as they visit the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter.



NEWS

Consistory Update

- Members of the Search Team made a recommendation to present Tim Fennel to the Consistory for the Equipping Young Adults and Families Director position. The Consistory then made a motion to recommend Tim Fennell to the congregation for the Equipping Young Adults and Families Director position. We will have a congregational vote on June 2, 2024.
- A motion was made to appoint Bill Bruins, Andy Derksen, and Pastor Kevin to a committee which will develop a protocol for reviewing staff to be developed from our Bylaws, Article VII.2.3.2
- The 3rd quarter benevolent schedule was approved.
- Jason & Kassandra De Jager requested baptism for their son, James Kodiak.
- Eric & Bridget Lammers requested their membership be transferred to Bethel Christian Reformed Church in Waupun.

Midwest Network Update

- Last week, the Admin Team discussed the relationship of the Alliance with the CRC and some confusion over the progress and terminology. Individuals are pursuing more information. We discussed the four churches not giving to the Alliance or Network and decided to follow up appropriately with each of those ministries knowing they each are facing challenges. There was discussion about some churches on hospice and what is being done to help. The Network Meeting will be held at Community Reformed Church in Sioux Falls, SD on Nov. 8-9.