

Ministers:
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley
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Sunday:
8:00 AM: WGCY
9:00 AM: Worship

Wednesday:
6:30 PM: Bible Study

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Christ.com](http://gibsoncitychurchofchrist.com)

This Past Week:
Worship-33
Wednesday-11

For meditation:
Ecclesiastes 9.3-4
The heart of men is full of evil and one of the times when the evil is sure to come out is when someone dies. A small book about death that is worth picking up is *The Last Thing We Talk About* by Joseph Bayly.

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

“Am I my sister’s keeper?” a sequel

A few weeks ago, I wrote about a boy’s responsibility for the well-being (physically, morally, spiritually) of any girl he dates.

I noted that girls who date should not be naïve about what drives the boys who ask them out on a date. I’d like to add a bit more to this, hoping it might be helpful when counseling a daughter, granddaughter, young lady, etc. who is of dating age.

A Biblical basis for what follows can be found in 2 Samuel 13 and Amnon’s (David’s son’s) treatment of his half-sister Tamar.

Here are three realities from that story.

1. **Unloving attraction (13.4).** Girls need to remember that boys give “love” to get sex. When an adolescent in the dating mood tells a girl he loves her, he’s not being truthful. He may think the chemical/hormonal effects of the moment are what love is, but he’s wrong. What he’s experiencing can probably best be characterized as an *unloving attraction*. He’s attracted, but it’s lust that’s happening, not true love.
2. **Coldness (13.14).** An unloving attraction is a form of selfishness that is often dismissive of the girl’s understanding, feelings, well-being, and rights. Being an object of attraction means you are just that—an *object* the subject the subject wants to use to satisfy his desires.
3. **Hatred (13.15).** If the girl pushes back against the coldness, the boy’s mask will come off and everything will be seen for what it really is: lust, selfishness, etc. Sadly, boys backed into the corner of exposing their true self and react very ugly, insultingly, and cruelly at this point.

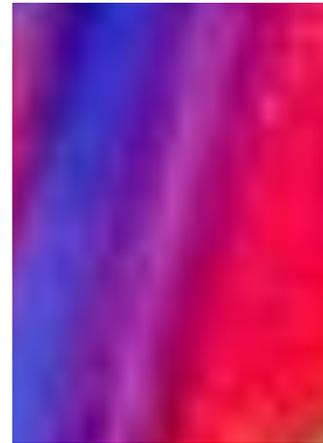
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Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

“You shall make a veil woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread” (Ex. 26.31).

“By a new and living way which he consecrated for us, through the *veil*, that is, His flesh” (Heb. 10.20).



Over twenty-five times in Exodus it is said the second veil in the Temple was to be woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread. This order of colors is always the same, never juxtaposed; it is always blue–purple–scarlet.

Knowing that everything in the tabernacle/temple was a symbol and a foreshadow of better things to come, you wonder what this arrangement of colors represented.

I like the idea of some of the older commentators who saw this color scheme as a type of the incarnate Christ. When blue (the color of heaven) is merged with red (the color of blood), the result is purple. “And the Word was God . . . and the Word became flesh” (Jn. 1.1,14).

I wouldn’t bet the farm on this interpretation, but the color scheme of the veil, at the very least, is a great way to think of the blending of the Divine and human in Jesus Christ.

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Sermon: Hebrews 11.35-40

**Faith: the problems it causes;
the problems it solves**

22 February 2026

Walking the plank

“Put the world’s greatest philosopher on a plank that is wider than need be; if there is a precipice below, although his reason may convince him that he is safe, his imagination will prevail.” Blaise Pascal

In other words, put a 30-foot plank, 12-inches wide on the ground and anyone can walk it. Some might skip or cartwheel down it. But set the same plank across a high mountain crevasse with a thousand-foot drop beneath and see how many are willing to cross. Same plank, same person; in one case we run it’s length; in another, we won’t put our foot on it for fear of falling.

Pascal’s point is that fear can overrule all our reasoning and will power to where we don’t do what we’re capable of doing.

Fear is a terrible disease. A life overwhelmed by fear, anxiety, and panic is hell on earth. Fear is torture, said John (1 Jn. 4.18), and experience proves this. Our reasoning and will power are often helpless before fear. Imagining ourselves falling is enough to keep us off the plank.

But there are two things stronger than fear that can get us across the plank and over the chasm, even when everything within us screams, “Stay on solid ground.”

LOVE

“Perfect love casts out fear” (1 Jn. 4.18). Where reasoning and will power won’t get us on the plank, love will. If your child is at the other end of the plank and is in imminent danger, you’ll be across the plank in a flash to save your child. Because love and fear are mutually exclusive, love hits the accelerator when fear jams on the brakes.

Walking the plank, says John, requires “perfect” love. Love that won’t cross the plank to save a loved one is imperfect and sorely needs to mature, fully develop, and grow (Phil. 1.9).

FAITH

The gospel sometimes asks of us what is risky, which can trigger fear. Hebrews 11 is filled with examples of such. But men and women of faith will walk the plank because they believe the God who cannot lie (Tit. 1.2) will keep His promise to never leave nor forsake them (Heb. 13.5). In their trust and obedience, they gain the victory “that has overcome the world, even our faith” (1 Jn. 5.4).

The next time we need to walk a high plank over a dangerous chasm, may our love and faith be equal to the task.

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Troubleshooting Trouble

James 1.2–4

No NT writer is more practical than James. Every paragraph of his letter hits us right between the eyes. What he writes is where the rubber meets the road.

Take, for instance, the first subject he addresses: the problem of trouble (1.2–12). Do you have any problems? troubles? If so, you need the three perspectives found in James 1.2–4.

TROUBLE TESTS US

“Knowing that the testing of your faith” (1.2). Trouble is a *test*. If you’ve gone to school you know that the purpose of a test is to reveal our level of knowledge. Faith is that which lifts us from earth to heaven; from time to eternity. It is by faith that we draw near to God. If we’re to be sure of anything, we ought to be sure our faith, but for us to really know where we are in regard to faith, we must face trouble. We may think we’ve set our affections on things above (Col. 3.2), but a serious illness, a broken marriage, financial reversal, a sudden death, etc. can reveal otherwise. If our faith gets us through an ordeal that comes our way, we’ll not be the weaker for it, but the stronger. When by faith we come through the fire, we’ll be better ready for the next fiery furnace we encounter.

TROUBLE STRENGTHENS US

“Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience (1.2). “Patience” is a reoccurring virtue in James (e.g., 5.7,8,10,11). It speaks of a tenacity of spirit that perseveres, endures, holds on, without losing our joy, good humor, or gladness. Patience gives us the calmness to wait as God works out His will in our life. And note that patience is produced by *testing*, not a single test. Patience comes from meeting one trouble after another. The strongest are those who have come through the most. After the three temptations of Christ, the devil departed, but only “for a season” (Lk. 4.13, KJV).

TROUBLE “PERFECTS” US

“Let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete lacking nothing (1.3). *Perfect* and *complete* are not synonyms in this verse. “Complete” means we have in our character every virtue we’re meant to have; “perfect” means those virtues as matured, ripened, aged. When the good Lord allows trouble to come our way, don’t bail on Him. Allow the tests He sends your way to make you more like His Son, Jesus Christ.

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