



Platte Christian Reformed Church

April 2019

Dear Platte CRC Family,

I think we have all either had thoughts like these either come out of our mouth or at least float through our head at some point...

“But everyone else is getting that phone!”

“Ugh...I can’t believe he got that grade!”

“Ya know, some of us have to work while others fly off to places like that.”

“Any ole’ farmer could get a crop in soil like that.”

These can be the voices of **envy**, the first of the seven vices (‘deadly sins’). Envy is the vice that focuses on what one doesn’t have. But it is slightly different from its cousins, like greed. How are envy and greed different? Whereas greed focuses on the possession itself (‘I want that new truck because look what it can do!’), envy focuses on the *status* or the *statement* that comes along with a possession or quality (‘I want that new truck because imagine everyone seeing me in that new truck’).

In my introductory letter to this series, I mentioned how vices are like ‘sledding tracks,’ where once a path is laid down in the snow, you just tend to fly right down it. Envy runs on the ‘sledding track’ of comparison. You are either winning or you’re losing. We define our worth based on possessions (‘that phone!’), achievements (‘that grade!’), experiences (‘places like that’), or even blessings (‘soil like that’).

If Christians are called to love their neighbor, perhaps you can see how envy is so destructive, especially to a church. You can’t celebrate someone’s achievement because you’re too busy wondering what it does to you. It is self-destructive, because your sense of worth is built on the sandy foundation of ‘keeping up with the Joneses.’ And so the end of envy is that you neither love your neighbor nor yourself. How miserable is the envious church – a collection of isolated people all on a mission to impress one another!

Cont’d on back

Having diagnosed envy, what is the treatment? You must first answer the question, “where is my worth found,” and embed the answer deeply in your soul. Our worth is found in the undeserved kindness of Christ. You are loved and worthy (a ‘winner’) not because of what you have or what you’ve done, but because of His victory at Calvary. You are secure and loved because of the covenant in His blood – much stronger than your house or car. Only then do you stop worrying about ‘winning’ and stop looking at your neighbor as competition.

The fruit of the Spirit we can pray for instead of envy (the new ‘sledding track’) is the virtue of **kindness**. Envy goes home and sulks; kindness writes a congratulatory note. Where envy wants to win, kindness wants to learn. Where envy says, “I can’t believe they get to do that,” kindness says – and means – “I hope they really enjoy that.”

This month, let’s be placing all of our worth in what Christ has already won for us at Calvary, and then be praying to put off envy, and put on kindness!

Sincerely,

Pastor Drew

**Note: This is the first of seven newsletters this year exploring the ‘seven deadly sins,’ inspired by the book Glittering Vices, by Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung.*

FAMILY PRAYER NOTES

GENERAL PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

- ⇒ For our students as they work down the ‘home stretch’ of the school year. Remember those attending school elsewhere – especially those college seniors hunting for a job: Catia Bok, Luke Kaemingk and Chase Pheifer [Dordt], Alicia Bultsma [Chicago], Ashley Hansum [Trinity], Lydia Hansum [SW Minnesota], Kami Pheifer [USF].
- ⇒ For our women’s ‘Sisterhood’ retreat and the speaker, Jolene DeHeer: ask God to grow the bonds between sisters in our church family.
- ⇒ For the Spirit to help us put off the vice of envy and put on the virtue of kindness.
- ⇒ For courage from the book of Daniel to be faithful living in this world, but not to become ‘of’ this world.
- ⇒ That the Easter season would provide new opportunities to share the gospel with those in our community who do not know it.

Nursing Home Residents, Shut-ins and their Caretakers:

- ⇒ Tony & Rozella Baan Hofman, Ted & Carol Bultsma, Kevin Burma, Gertie DeJong, Clair & Pearl Dyk, Marie Kok, Clarence Hunsucker, JoAnn Kuipers, Juna Meyerink, Ruth Pranger, Cheryl Reed, Evelyn Severson, Harriet Sprik, Leona Van Dusseldorp, Muriel Van Vuren, and Betty Van Zee

Those Mourning the Loss of:

- ⇒ Alfred Van Zee, Don Severson, and Helen Pheifer.

Missionaries:

- ⇒ Ben & Amy Meyer (CRWM– Mexico)
- ⇒ Victor & Lori Selemani (YWAM– Africa)
- ⇒ LaVeryl & Max Voss (Wycliffe– Papua New Guinea)
- ⇒ Calvin & Jessica Wunderink (TeachBeyond-Czech Republic)

Monthly Birthdays and Anniversaries

(to see church activities, please refer to our weekly bulletin, or to the online calendar at plattecrc.org for the most up-to-date information)

April Birthdays:

- 1: Vernon Van Vuren
- 7: Sam Sybesma
- 9: Eric Van Zee
- 10: Abraham Meyer (missionary)
- 10: Amber Dykshorn
- 10: Devan (Hansum) Haack
- 10: Rheanna Pheifer
- 11: Muriel Van Vuren
- 16: Tyler Weg
- 17: Brent Veurink
- 21: Corinne Middendorp
- 22: Dennis Kok
- 22: Doug Kaemingk
- 23: Dale Severson
- 25: Barb Buitenbos
- 26: Ken Van Zee

27: Nancy Van Zee

29: Amy Meyer (missionary)

April Anniversaries:

- 9: Keith & Harriett Sybesma
- 19: Curt & Kristi Pheifer
- 21: Joel & Su Sybesma
- 24: Henry & Barb Buitenbos
- 24: Ken & Kim Lieuwen
- 26: Wilmer & Joan Niewenhuis
- 30: Brian & Shelly DeGroot

Please let the church office know if there are any birthdays or anniversaries that we’ve missed! Call 337-3572, or email: plattecrc@gmail.com