

August 21, 2022

FLORENCE BOULEVARD CHURCH OF CHRIST



Elders

Steve Clark
Jake VanDyke
Ken Vanhorn
Mark Willingham

Deacons

Greg Allen
Justin Beckman
Kevin Clemons
Jeffrey Cox
Mike Davidson
Kyle Dickson
Gregg Elrod
Nate Fulmer
AJ Gooch
Jamey Medley
Ronnie Putnam
Dave Schmidt
Mark Vanhorn
Don Williams

Minister

Austin Johnson

Youth Minister

John Birdwell

Secretary

Sonya Cox

Why Did God Create Me Knowing...

"Let not one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death." James 1:13-15

God cannot be tempted by evil. Perfection is His nature and therefore He knows what is good and right and true. It is also the case that He is fully aware of the pitfalls and problems that come as consequence of the sins we choose to commit. Think about this: He doesn't have a nature to "rise above" as His nature is perfectly pure and free of any fleshly craving. Can you imagine that? We are born, born in flesh and bound by our flesh (*Romans 7:18*). Each of us with sound mind have the capability to sin and eventually realize that potential in committing sin. Can you imagine not being pulled and enticed? Not having to fight, scratch, and claw to avoid giving in to the temptations around us? Not having to splice the emotions and desires that Satan toys and tempts us with. That would be so nice. Wouldn't it?

I have a question for you to consider...why did God do this to us anyway? James 1:15 tells us that we are "*lured and enticed by our own desires.*" This language is that of dragging away which create a word picture of fishing. Douglas J. Moo said, "Like bait on a hook, sin tempts people and then drags them away." It has been said to me from certain individuals that they are mad at God because He created them without their consent and now must suffer daily and lifelong battles against temptations and the avoidance of sin (*and, of course, the fight for and pursuit of His righteousness*). So did God in fact do this to us?

The short answer is no. God did not create mankind this way. Adam and Eve were created perfect and without sin. It was their free-will choice that brought sin into the world (*Romans 5:12-21*). So why did God create me knowing that I would, by my free-will, eventually have this struggle? I need to answer this question with another question—Why do we enjoy the pleasure and ease of our sin more than the pursuit of holiness of a life in Christ? It seems to me that people looking to blame God for creating them without their own consent (*which is an impossibility*) is an attempted escape from personal responsibility to rise above and pursue the higher and better things God offers in this life. I cannot understand all things pertaining to existence and creation, why God did this or that (*Isaiah 55:8-9*). But I do know that He is working all things for my good, and part of that is the struggle against sin and the pursuit of His righteousness.

Austin Johnson

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Worship: Sunday 9:00 am & 5:00 pm; Bible Class 10:15 am

Wednesday: 6:30 pm

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday AM: 289 / On Line Views: 121
Sunday School: 209 / On Line Views: N/A
Sunday PM: 220 / On Line Views: 154
Wednesday: 185 / On Line Views: 150
Budget: \$13,300
Contribution: \$ 15,285

AUGUST MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

Evands Pierre
C/O Jean-Claubert Belton
Carrefour Michaud #46 Route Malpasse
Entrée Double Harvest
Croix des Bouquets
Haiti

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUMMER SERIES:

August 24th: Ben Hayes (Highland Park)

Contemporary Lessons From The Final Book of the Bible: Revelation
“Does Revelation Apply To Today?”

TODAY’S SPEAKERS

Austin is away at Polishing The Pulpit. Speaking in his absence: AM: Mark Vanhorn; PM: Chase Lawhead (son-in-law of Brian & DeeDee McManus)

BABY GIRL DIAPER POUNDING

We are having a Baby Girl Diaper Pounding, for Ashley Farrar that goes through today. Please bring diapers and place them in the basket that is located in the foyer.

BABY GIRL BABY SHOWER

We will be having a Baby Girl Baby Shower, for Sheena Holt, on Sunday, August 28th, from 2:30-4:00 pm, in the Family Room. She is registered at Amazon and Target. Shower Team #4 is the hostess.

BABY BOY DIAPER POUNDING

We will be having a Baby Boy Diaper Pounding for Mercedes Beckman, beginning on August 28th and will go through September 11th. A basket will be located in the foyer soon.

LORD’S SUPPER

Beginning September 4, 2022, the Lord’s Supper will be observed during the evening worship hour in a similar way as in the morning. The worshippers who choose to participate in the evening communion may pick up their emblem packet as they enter the auditorium. This will allow communion participants to remain connected with their church family while providing additional time of worshipful reflection to those who had observed earlier.

WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL BENEFIT DINNER

Tuesday, August 30th at 6:30 pm at Florence Blvd Church of Christ.
There is a sign-up sheet, on the table, located beside the Sound Room.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY

If you would like to be a part of the Women’s Ministry, please sign the sheets, located on the table, outside of the Sound Room, by August 31st.
If you have any questions, please see Sandra McGuire.

52 WEEK BIBLE READING PLAN

Week 33

Sunday (Epistles) 1 Timothy 1-3

Monday (The Law) Numbers 1-4

Tuesday (History) 1 Chr 5-9

Wednesday (Psalms) Psalm 96-98

Thursday (Poetry) Proverbs 17-18

Friday (Prophecy) Daniel 7-12

Saturday (Gospels) John 5-6