



# The 4th Focus

## “The Quest for Integrity”

I am a hypocrite. And so are you. The word *hypocrite* is based on the Greek theatrical words that mean “actor” or “to play a part.” We pretend to be something we are not. Psalm 26:4 refers to “false men.” Jesus said that they honor God with their lips, but their heart is far from him (Mark 7:6). The natural result of our sinful hearts wading through a shallow, sinful world is that we put on some mask to hide the ugly reality of our hearts. We say one thing and do another. As Morpheus said to Nero in *The Matrix*, “There’s a difference between knowing the path and walking the path.”

And so, as Christians, we are on a life-long quest for integrity—where the outside matches the inside—where we move from the saying to the doing of “true religion.” This integrity quest was a significant focus for our men’s retreat and it is the focus of my sermon called, “What You Are in the Dark” based on Zechariah 7. How do we make progress in this quest for integrity?

The first step for progress toward integrity is to see. Jesus referred to the Pharisees, the Bible’s prototypical hypocrites, as being blind. Blindness to our condition is key to perpetuating the infection. And so, just as God worked through his prophets over the history of Israel, so he works today through his Word and Spirit. And just as God’s people were horribly deaf to God’s Word spoken through the centuries, we will be deaf until we humbly pray and seek his Spirit’s work in our hearts and minds.

Another key for our blindness involves the humility to allow others to see and hold up a mirror for us. And so as much as I might resent it at the moment, I need my spouse to both see what I am unable to see in my heart and life and to confront me so that I cannot wriggle away from the truth. When our kids make observations about us, there are times when we should rightly be stabbed and left bleeding. Dad, you seem to care more about your work and projects than you care about Mom or me. Dad, why do drink so much beer? Mom, why don’t you greet Dad with love and a kiss like you used to? You said we would do this and... What happened to the joy we used to know? Why aren’t we friends with \_\_\_\_\_ anymore? Friends and family can effectively hold up a mirror for our ugliness if we are open to the community at work in this way.

The second key step for progress toward integrity is a pattern of humble repentance and dependence on the integrity of Jesus. Throughout Scripture, integrity is all about our relationships with God and others. For example, the Ten Commandments involve four commands regarding our relationship to God and six regarding our relationships with others. The Law is summarized with loving God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself. Integrity is all about love for God and others—and particularly others who are in need. Don’t tell me you love God while you ignore, gossip about or take shots at anyone (1 John 4:20-21).

If we rely on what we self-deceivingly or incompletely see and believe about our “good” efforts toward integrity, we can feel fairly good about ourselves and impatiently expect others (our kids, spouse, friends, neighbors) to get their ducks in a row like us. On the other hand, if we allow God’s Word, Spirit and community (our kids, spouse, friends, neighbors) to help us see how ugly we are in our relationships, we will look for our goodness and beauty outside of ourselves. Progress with integrity is NOT a matter of trying harder. Intense self-efforts will inevitably lead to Academy Award-winning hypocrisy.

And so the humble repentance and dependence is possible when we daily trade in our worthless efforts toward integrity and keeping up appearances for the integrity and beauty of Christ offered to us on the cross. Jesus submitted himself to be bound and killed at the hands of blind and cowardly hypocrites so that we could be set free for a life of genuine and reckless love.

- Pastor Tim

## Reflection

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**The Holy Spirit**  
Written by Erica Stone  
Inspired by God's Word and  
The Forgotten God (Francis Chan)

### The Holy Spirit

Is a person, not a thing  
Is God, the third person of the Trinity  
Has His own mind and will  
Has emotions  
Is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-present

### He helps me to

Handle difficult situations  
Be bold to share Christ

### As my Counselor He

Comforts and encourages me when I'm discouraged  
Advises and guides me when making choices

### His power

Equips me to be a witness  
Draws others to Christ  
Draws me closer to Jesus  
Adopts me as His child  
Convicts me of my sin  
Fills me with hope, joy, and peace  
Leads me to demonstrate His love, patience,  
kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness,  
and self-control  
Gives me gifts to be used for the common good  
Wisdom, knowledge, faith, and discernment

### Holy Spirit,

Fill me with Your peace and joy  
Guide me in my everyday life  
Mold me into what You want me to be  
Let me demonstrate Your love  
For You are worthy.

### Women's Ministry

We had a delightful time at Amy Baragar's baby shower helping her celebrate the upcoming birth of their son on May 22 (if he is on time!). There were a lot of smiles from everyone as we watched the opening of all the precious gifts for their baby.

On Tuesday, June 19, we look forward to our Progressive Dinner starting off with appetizers at the home of Erin Broene. We could use more women to host! See Erin or Ruth Meendering.

## May

2 - Amy Baragar  
7 - Tyler Berthiaume  
7 - Kara Berrevoets  
7 - Jaidyn Ann Bolt  
9 - Tim Randall  
14 - Sam Wammack  
19 - Jean Stadt  
21 - Grace Wammack  
22 - Jeff Boehm  
23 - Jeremiah Parks  
24 - Larry Kelly  
24 - Brad Berrios  
24 - Bill Pypier  
24 - Beka McDowell  
26 - Norma Boehm  
27 - Greg Hawkins  
28 - Mike Berrevoets  
29 - Aaron Wetzel  
30 - Ralph Simone  
31 - Amy Parmeter  
31 - Ethan Parmeter

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## June

2 - Julie Schalk  
3 - Caren Bills  
5 - Lorraine Smith  
8 - Dawn Faasse  
9 - Brandon Gleason  
12 - Owen Parmeter  
13 - Laura O'Brock  
14 - Eric O'Brock  
14 - Sam Tubergen  
16 - Trish Studebaker  
20 - Justin Leasure  
21 - Bjorn Bylsma  
21 - Alyssa Bylsma  
23 - Betsy Couthie  
24 - Marty Pypier  
24 - Leslie Hawkins  
28 - Becky Berrevoets  
28 - Linda Randall  
28 - Roy Giron  
29 - Katherine Ring

## Check These Out!

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### Real Marriage—The Truth About Sex, Friendship & Life Together

by Mark & Grace Driscoll  
Pastor Mark and his wife Grace, share how they have struggled and how they have found healing through the power of the only reliable source: the Bible.

### The Meaning of Marriage

by Timothy Keller  
Using the Bible as his guide, and coupled with insightful commentary from his wife, Kathy, Timothy shows that God created marriage to bring us closer to Him and to bring more joy into our lives. The Meaning of Marriage is helpful reading for anyone who wants to know God and love more deeply in this life.

### Have a New Kid by Friday

by Dr. Kevin Leman  
With his wit and commonsense psychology, internationally recognized family expert Dr. Kevin Leman reveals why your kids do what they do and what you can do about it - starting right now.

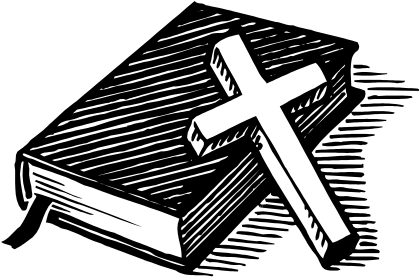
### Hiking Through

by Paul Stutzman  
After Paul Stutzman lost his wife to breast cancer he left his job, traveled to Georgia, and took his first steps on the Appalachian Trail. What he learned during the next four and a half months changed his life—and can change yours as well.

## Reformed Church Heritage - Church vs. State

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The early history of New Netherland was often marked by stormy relationships between ministers and civil authorities. While magistrates claimed their earthly authority as ordained by God, the early ministers, largely influenced by the teachings of the militant arm of English Puritanism, saw themselves as the spiritual and thus primary leaders of the colony. Conflict frequently boiled over into the community.



The first minister Jonas Michaelius presided over a consistory comprised of three men who held public office. This included the governor Pieter Minuit. Early on, Michaelius accused Minuit of not serving the best interests of the West India Company and becoming rich at company expense. Minuit tried to silence him and urged his recall. Of Minuit, Michaelius wrote in a 1630 letter

*We have a leader, who is most unworthy of his leadership: a slippery man, who under the treacherous mark of honesty is a compound of all iniquity and wickedness. For he is accustomed to the lies, of which he is full ... he is not free from fornication, the most cruel oppressor of the innocent and deems no one worthy of his favor and protection, who is not of the same kidney as he is.*

In an isolated land where there was no quick intervention by the Dutch authorities, the conflict escalated. It was difficult to determine who was in the right, so both Minuit and Michaelius were recalled to the Netherlands. Together, they sailed on a ship ironically named the *Unity*. Their tense proximity was prolonged after the *Unity* was temporarily seized by the British for allegedly carrying illegal cargo. This incident was a microcosm of a growing conflict between the English and Dutch in the New World which we will see later would have an impact on the Reformed Church.

The church's next minister was Everardus Bogardus. Raised in an orphanage, he had a spiritual experience and thereafter studied theology at Leiden. He soon left school and became a Comforter of the Sick in Guinea, West Africa. After returning, he was ordained and arrived at New Amsterdam in 1633 where he remained for the next 14 years. During this time, he shared a tense relationship with two colonial governors.

His first adversary was Wouter van Twiller (1633-37). In a letter written in June 1634, Bogardus called him *a devil's child, a villain in his skin*. It was said that continued remarks lead Van Twiller to draw his sword and chase the minister down a New Amsterdam street. Both men were attacked by Lubbert Dinclagen, a high official in the West India Company. Dinclagen accused Van Twiller of Company disloyalty while condemning Bogardus for suspending him from the church. Dinclagen returned to Holland where he continued his criticism before the Company and Church authorities. In New Amsterdam, however, the conflict actually lessened.

Initially, Bogardus got along with the next governor Willem Kieft (1637-47). This ended after Kieft ignored counsel and personally ordered the massacre of two native villages on February 25, 1643, resulting in the murder of many women and children. Bogardus often condemned Kieft from the pulpit. Kieft accused Bogardus of public drunkenness and spouse abuse and added that Bogardus often excused himself from the Lord's Table because of his sins. Kieft eventually stopped attending church and during worship services encouraged loud games by soldiers and officers, as well as the beating of drums and discharge of cannon.

Eventually, both men returned to the Netherlands to account for their behavior. Together, they sailed on the same ship named the *Princess*. On the way, the ship was wrecked in a storm off the coast of Wales. Out of nearly 100 people aboard, 81 died, including Kieft and Bogardus.

Relations between governor and minister generally improved with the arrival of the next governor Peter Stuyvesant (1647-64). This would continue for the remainder of the Dutch colonial period.

- Eric O'Brock

Next: Church Expansion

**A PUBLICATION OF**  
**FOURTH**  
**REFORMED CHURCH**



1226 Union Ave. N.E.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Pastor Tim Meendering  
Phone: 454-1561  
www.fourthchurch.com

**Sunday Service**  
9:30 AM

**Family Fellowship**  
**Lifeline Groups**  
5:00 PM

**Christian Education**  
11:15 AM

**Our Vision**

Seeking to be a joyful,  
welcoming  
community that is  
transformed by the gospel,  
nurtured in God's  
Word, and led by His  
Spirit - to redeem the  
city and beyond."

**A COMMUNITY REDEEMED TO  
REDEEM OUR COMMUNITY**

## *GEMS Update*



Looking back to October, it seems as if the GEMS season has flown by. We ended our "year" with GEMS Sunday and were glad to share our songs with the congregation.

On Monday, April 30th, we had a tea for special friends and moms and grandmothers. During the year, the GEMS had earned points which were happily redeemed at the "GEMS store." While the girls went shopping, our creative director, Dawn Faasse, helped the adults make beautiful flower pins.

Through the year, we have seen growth and maturity in all of the girls and we pray the seeds we have sown will continue on in life. We have also seen growth in our counselors in training, Erica Stone and Amber Studebaker. Their help has been much appreciated. Our volunteers, Nancy Springfield, Amalie Woods and Jean Stadt, faithfully showed up on Mondays and they are appreciated far beyond words. As counselors, we seek to be faithful servants and appreciate all the prayers for us through this year. To God be the glory!

- Nancy Aukeman

## *Men's Retreat*

Fifteen men of Fourth gathered at the Hawkins' cabin in Pentwater for this year's men's retreat. Pastor Tim led us in an area crucial to the lives of men, **integrity**. By definition *integrity is doing what you say you will do, when you say you will do it*. We were challenged to examine our lives by prayerfully asking God to point out any areas where we lack integrity. Once an area of our life is pointed out by the Holy Spirit, we need to work toward growing integrity in that area of life—cleaning it up as soon as possible.

Another area where lack of integrity exists is in our **workability** at home, church, in our family, or at work. This non-workability exists at least in part because we have broken a promise or dishonored an agreement either explicitly or implicitly. The result is that area of our life is not working as God intended it to work. Following a look at our own walk with God and others, we were given an opportunity to share personal experiences with another man. As the Holy Spirit opened our hearts, we could clearly see areas we need to clean up. During our group discussions, we shared our thoughts and formulated ideas about how to address what we had discovered in order that we may be more effective as the leaders Jesus calls us to be.

Thanks to Skip and Sue for providing an awesome gathering place, Ken Coeling for a great breakfast, and Norm Schalk for a delicious lunch.

- Tom Boehm

### **Be Faithful in Praying for our Missionaries!**

In **May** our Mission of the Month are the **Boehms** who make their home in Thailand and in **June** we focus our prayers toward the **Van Dykes** who minister in Guatemala.

