

Women of the Word

Welcome

Every morning, I ask God to help me glorify Him and honor Him throughout my day. I thank Him for the opportunity to serve Him in a new day and ask Him to direct my words, thoughts, and actions. Then usually sometime a few hours later, I realize I have gone about my business for the day without giving God much thought. This saddens me, but it also challenges me to find ways to keep God in the forefront of my mind.

Whether it is placing sticky notes with Bible verses in places we will see them regularly or setting an alarm on our phones to pause and pray for a few moments a couple of times a day, we can choose to be intentional in loving and seeking God!! Let's prayer for one another to be more mindful of Jesus every moment of every day!!

In Christ,

Melanie Woltje

Women's Ministry Team Leader

Mission Statement

FBC Women's Ministry exists to empower our ladies to use their God-given gifts in accordance with God's will.

A Peculiar People - Vanessa Wisdom

1 Peter 2:9-11 in the ESV translation reads: *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.* In the KJV verse 9 is translated as: *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people.* God has called a chosen group of people to be His own possession; a peculiar group of people. In our modern language we refer to God's chosen people as the Church, or Christians.

Recently Pastor John preached from **James 1:27** which

says: *Religion that is pure and undefiled in the sight of God the Father is this: to visit orphans and the fatherless in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.* In short, God desires that His people, the Church, be unstained by the world.

In Romans 12:2 Paul writes, "*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*" The Apostle John offers similar words found in 1 John 2:15-17 where he writes, "*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and the pride of life—is not from the Father but from the world.*"

Ever since the sermon on James 1:27, I have been chewing on the word **unstained** and asking myself questions like:

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- * How am I stained by the world?
- * What worldly things are waging war against my soul and pulling me away from Christ?
- * What worldly things do I love?
- * Does my thinking and my life align with God's will or worldly ways?

It is my desire to be unstained by this world, and I hope if you are a Christian that is your desire as well. I invite you to join me in honest self-examination that hopefully results in a willingness to flee from the things that stain. May the words found in Hebrews 12:1 be a great source of encouragement to us, *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."*

JESUS CHRIST THE SAME
YESTERDAY, AND TO DAY,
AND FOR EVER.
HEBREWS 13:8



Flourishing Mama



Bible Studies

Fall Bible Study - Fruits of the Spirit

5:30 at the church

Wednesdays at 9:30 AM - Joan Little's House

(26675 P Road) - Topic Varies



Upcoming Events

Saturday November 1st - "Thanking God in All Things - Colossians 3:17"

Teaching Event

9am - 11:30am Fellowship Hall

2nd Tuesday of each month - Jhett's at 11:30

Tuesday October 21st - Girl's Night Out - El Ranchito, 6:15pm

Saturday November 22 - Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Party

****These dates are subject to change****

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Team Leader: Melanie Woltje

Brooke Black, Christi Boyden, Donna Jewell, Erin Lassey,

Caitlin Murrow, Vanessa Wisdom

The Law of God

God rules His universe by law. Nature itself operates under His providential government. The so-called laws of nature merely describe God's normal way of ordering His universe. These "laws" are expressions of His sovereign will.

God is not accountable to any laws outside of Himself. There are no independent, cosmic rules that God is obligated to obey. Rather, God is a law unto Himself. This simply means that God acts according to His own moral character. His own character is not only morally perfect, it is the ultimate standard of perfection. His actions are perfect because His nature is perfect, and He always acts according to His nature. God is therefore never arbitrary, whimsical, or capricious. He always does what is right.

As God's creatures, we are also required to do what is right. God demands that we live according to His moral law, which He has revealed to us in the Bible. God's law is the ultimate standard of righteousness and the supreme norm for judging right and wrong. As our sovereign, God has the authority to impose obligations on us, to command our obedience, and to bind our conscience. He also has the power and right to punish disobedience when we violate His law. (Sin may be defined as disobedience to God's law.)

Some laws in the Bible are directly based on the character of God. These laws reflect the permanent, transcultural elements of relationships, both divine and human. Other laws were intended for temporary conditions of society. This means that some laws are absolute and eternal, while others may be annulled by God for historical reasons, such as the dietary and ceremonial laws of Israel. Only God Himself may set aside such laws. Human beings never have the authority to set aside God's law.

We are not autonomous. That is, we may not live according to our own law. The moral condition of humankind is that of heteronomy: we live under the law of another. The specific form of heteronomy under which we live is the law of God.

(ESV Reformation Study Bible; Theological Notes)



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Spiritual Disciplines: Giving Thanks & Rejoicing

The gospel is good news. When Jesus was born, the angels declared His arrival as "good news of great joy that will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10). Jesus is precious for countless reasons. He is the Messiah who the Redeemer promised in Genesis 3. He is the Word, full of grace and truth (John 1:1). He is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:16). In His presence is abundant joy, and with Him are eternal pleasures (Ps. 16:11). When the eyes of our hearts are enlightened, we are enabled to see Christ for who He is, and our hearts are filled with wonder.

This wonder for the person of Christ is a gift for believers. It is the motivation behind every single spiritual discipline. As we see the beauty of Christ and enjoy intimacy with Him, we are motivated to feast on His Word, engage with His body, and worship with our lives. He is the reason why the Christian life is a joy-filled life. He is why gratitude and joy are to be our consistent disposition. Scripture actually commands us to give thanks at all times; in fact, gratitude is God's will for His people (1 Thess. 5:18). We are also instructed to rejoice at all times (Phil. 4:4). On this side of eternity, we must engage in the spiritual disciplines of giving thanks and rejoicing in all circumstances.



In the OT, God's people were instructed to faithfully observe certain feasts every year. These were invitations for His people to remember and rejoice in God's goodness, faithfulness, and provision. They were times to gather with others and celebrate God, His work, and their identity as His people. Today, the principle of gathering together as God's people remains essential in order to remember and rejoice in who God is. In this way, the spiritual disciplines of celebrating and giving thanks are corporate in nature.

These disciplines should be practiced in private as well. We will find that a large part of cultivating a grateful heart and joyful spirit is removing hindrances to our joy in the Lord. These hindrances can be anything causing us to forget the gospel. The gospel is the starting point for cultivating a heart of gratitude. It is knowing deep in our souls that we are sinners and justly deserving of death,

but God, out of His great love and mercy, gave us life. This compels us to be grateful in every season. The gospel is what removes our sense of entitlement. It is our reason for abundant joy in the Lord. We are now alive together with Christ (Eph. 2:5).

We are empowered to walk in newness of life. We have the indwelling Spirit, and the Spirit gives us the ability to see the goodness and love of God, to remember His faithfulness, and to rejoice in His provision. Being rooted, built up, and established in the faith requires sound doctrine. In this way, the other spiritual disciplines can be fuel for the disciplines of giving thanks and rejoicing always. In turn, the spirit of gratitude and celebration encourages us in the continual pursuit of the other disciplines.

Having sound doctrine does not mean we have to be serious all the time. Knowing God and being filled with His Spirit should compel us to shout for joy. When we consider the work of God, we cannot help but rejoice. This is seen in Scripture. God's people are commanded to sing for joy; they are often depicted as singing and dancing in response to who God is and what He is doing. The same should be true of us. In response to our union with Christ and His sustaining grace, we joyfully walk in obedience to His Word and experience the multiplication of our joy as a result. We preach the gospel to ourselves, refusing to allow familiarity with its truths to breed indifference.

This does not mean that our lives are easy. This does not mean that we are not allowed to grieve the brokenness of this world or lament. This simply means that our joy is anchored in something—Someone—beyond this world. Our gratitude and our joy are not dependent on our ever-changing circumstances but on the unchanging person of Jesus Christ. In engaging in the spiritual disciplines of giving thanks and rejoicing always, we are rehearsing for the future that is ours with Christ in eternity.

Additional reading... Ps. 32:1-2, Ps. 118
(Growing in Grace: Knowing and Loving God Through Spiritual Disciplines)

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