



Women Of The Word

Welcome

Do I have a high enough view of God? Do I have a correct view of myself in contrast to God? How does my view of God shape the way I live my life? The answer to the first two questions is no. The Fall of mankind resulted in a warping of the human mind. And the modern day elevation of self-importance coupled with the cultural rejection of most things biblical has resulted in low views of God and skewed perspectives of ourselves, our truly wretched nature in comparison to God, and our desperate need for Jesus to be our Lord and Savior. The answer to the third question remains murky. This answer is different for everyone. Do I surrender myself to God and beg Him to make me new? To correct my warped thinking? To transform me into the likeness of Christ? For true spiritual growth, I must do all of these.

Blessings,
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.

Guest Article - Vanessa Wisdom

Like many of you, when the new year began, I made a new year's resolution. My resolution stems from James 3:13, "If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life." So that's my goal for 2025...to be more intentional about living a God-honoring life! I have set my sights to reform areas of my life that lack wise practices. I will share a few of those with you, in hopes that maybe you as well would desire to reform and more align your daily practices with God's ways.

I desire to reform my mind. To do this, I will feed my mind godly things and flee from worldly influences. (*Fix your thoughts on what is true, honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.* Philippians 4:8)

I desire to relinquish my need to be in control. To do this, I will remind myself that God is sovereign, and His ways are far better than my own. (*Man's steps are ordained by the Lord.* Proverbs 20:24)

I desire to work to the glory of God. I will find a job that brings me joy while allowing me to serve others. (*She is energetic and strong, a hard worker.* Proverbs 31:17)

(continued...)

I desire to care for the flock God has entrusted to us. (Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care but lead them by your own good example. 1 Peter 5:2-3)

I desire to love my husband to the glory of God. I will do this by being his helpmate and esteeming his wants/needs above my own. (Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life. She brings him good, not harm, **all** the days of her life. Proverbs 31:11-12; Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." Genesis 2:18)

Would you join me in resolving to make 2025 a year of reforming areas in your life to honor God? May we together, live wisely, proving that Christ is Lord and His ways are directing us!



Bible Studies

Wednesdays @ 9:30 am - Joan Little's Home (26675 P Rd) - Topic Varies

Wednesdays at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall - first class February 5th:

Respectable Sins - led by Vanessa Wisdom



Upcoming Events

Saturday March 1 - 8:30 - 11:30am (NEW DATE)
Eternally Safe: Living In God's Will
Light snacks and water provided.

The 2nd Tuesday of each month we meet @ Jhett's @ 11:30.

Tuesday March 18th - 6:15pm
Girl's Night Out at Trail's

Friday April 4th - Potential Craft Night!

These dates are subject to change.

First Baptist Church Women's Ministry Team

Team Leader: Melanie Woltje

Brooke Black, Christi Boyden, Donna Jewell, Erin Lassey,
Caitlin Murrow, Vanessa Wisdom

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Spiritual Disciplines: Evangelism

Practicing spiritual disciplines helps us to mature as believers of Christ and grow in godliness, but they are also for the benefit of others. Evangelism and discipleship are spiritual disciplines focusing on the salvation and maturity of others, while also helping us to grow in godliness. Evangelism is presenting the gospel to unbelievers in hopes that they might believe and be saved. It can take many forms, from a conversation with a neighbor to a sermon delivered before thousands of people. Discipleship is an ongoing relationship in which a believer walks alongside a newer believer or even an unbeliever. It can be a means of evangelism but goes beyond gospel presentation to seek spiritual maturity.

All believers are commanded to share the gospel. In Matthew 28, Jesus commanded His disciples to take the message of the gospel to all nations. This command is continued for all believers, and even now there are parts of the world that are still unreached by the gospel. All who believe in Christ are part of a royal priesthood called to be mediators of the message of salvation to an unbelieving world. While opportunities for evangelism can sometimes arise spontaneously, if we are to practice evangelism regularly, we must discipline ourselves to do so.

We may evangelize over coffee with an unbelieving friend, by sharing our testimony at a church event, or even in writing. Regardless of the method, evangelism must include the truth of the gospel being clearly stated. The way we live our lives is an important element of our evangelism, as Jesus commanded His disciples to live in such a way that those around them would see their good deeds and glorify God (Matt. 5:16). Our actions matter, but living out the gospel is not enough. Evangelism requires that the essential elements of the gospel message be proclaimed, and the transforming power of that gospel is evidenced by our conduct.

Evangelism may seem daunting, but understanding our role in evangelism can help to relieve some pressure. Our responsibility is to accurately present the truth of the gospel, and God is the one who brings about transformation. We have no power to change hearts or produce faith, and so the success of our evangelism is not contingent upon conversion by upon whether or not the good news of Jesus Christ was proclaimed. Every believer has the tools necessary to evangelize: a basic understanding of the gospel message and the indwelling Holy Spirit who empowers us to speak. Evangelism does not require a seminary degree, giftedness in speaking and teaching, or an outgoing personality. Every person who has been transformed by the gospel is equipped to proclaim the excellencies of Christ. Part of the discipline of evangelism is seeking out times and ways to do it. We must be intentional about spending time with unbelievers, caring for them through service, praying for them, and asking questions that can lead to gospel conversations.

Discipleship goes beyond proclaiming the hope of the gospel to unbelievers and seeks to walk alongside someone on their journey of sanctification. The word "disciple" means follower. One person leads another through a book of the Bible or elements of Christian faith and living. These relationships are incredibly important because the disciple learns not only from the words of the one who disciples them but from his or her witness of conduct. It is a type of spiritual mentorship with the goal of sanctification. The less experienced person in the relationship is not the only one who grows from this experience, but the more seasoned believer will also be formed into Christlikeness. This kind of relationship involves learning together, praying for one another, encouraging each other, and holding one another accountable.

The other spiritual disciplines play an important role in discipleship and evangelism. Through them, we gain greater knowledge of God and His Word, giving us confidence and fluency to present the gospel effectively. Through the disciplines, we grow in our love for God, making us more eager to proclaim His goodness. We grow in love for the body of Christ and our neighbors so that our desire to share the gospel with them will be genuine. The goal of spiritual disciplines is godliness, and a life that reflects the hope we are proclaiming through discipleship and evangelism is a powerful witness to those who hear.

Additional reading... Matt. 28:18-20 & 1 Pet. 2:9-10
(Growing in Grace: Knowing and Loving God Through Spiritual Disciplines)

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Human Beings Created in the Image of God

In art, the making of images is an exercise of beauty. Painting, sculpture, and the like are often imitative. Through our craft we depict objects drawn from real life.

The ultimate artist is God. When He fashioned the universe, He left His own mark upon it in such a way that the heavens declare His glory and the firmament shows forth His handiwork.

When God made the creatures that filled the earth and the sea, He created one creature to be uniquely made in His own image. Gen. 1:26-27 declares:

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish or the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

That the Bible says we are created in the image and likeness of God has led some to conclude that there is a difference between being in the image and being in the likeness of God. But the structure of the biblical language indicates that image and likeness refer to the same thing. We are the icons of God, creatures made with a unique capacity to mirror and reflect the character of God.

Being made in the image of God is usually understood to point to the sense in which we are like God. Though He is the Creator and we are creatures, and though God transcends us in being, power, and glory, nevertheless, there is some sense in which we are like Him. There is some analogy between God and us. God is an intelligent and moral being. We are also moral agents equipped with a mind, a heart, and a will. These faculties make it possible for us to mirror God's holiness, which was our original vocation.

The term man, when used in such Scripture passages as "God created man in his own image" (Gen. 1:27), means "humankind". Both male and female of the human species are made in the image of God. Part of the image includes mankind's call to rule the earth, to have dominion over it. We are called to dress, fill, and keep the earth as God's vice-regents. Here we are called to reflect the character of God's righteous rule over the universe. He never ravages or exploits what He rules, but rather reigns in justice and kindness.

In the fall of mankind, something ghastly happened. The image of God was severely tarnished. Our ability to mirror His holiness has been greatly affected so that now the mirror is fogged.

The Fall, however, did not destroy our humanity. Though our ability to reflect God's holiness was lost in the Fall, we are still human. We still have a mind, a heart, and a will. We still bear the mark of our Creator upon ourselves. The restoration of the fullness of the image of God in human beings is accomplished by Christ. He is, as the author of Hebrews declares, "the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature" (Heb. 1:3).

(ESV Reformation Study Bible; Theological Notes)

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