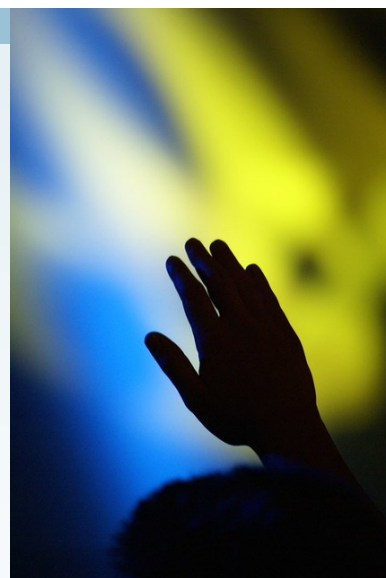




August 2022



Fox River Life



The following article is an article by Brian Rosner (PhD) who is principal of Ridley College, Melbourne, Australia. He is the author of many books, including Known by God: A Biblical Theology of Personal Identity (Zondervan, 2017) and How to

Find Yourself: Why Looking Inward Is Not the Answer (Crossway, 2022). I believe you will enjoy this article and it will be beneficial in helping you to understand the sin behind much of what we see in others and in ourselves.

*In His Name & For His Glory,
Pastor Tim*

You Won't Find Yourself Within

A gym near where I live advertises itself with the slogan "Be Fit. Be Well. Be You." A new apartment complex around the corner, offering high-end luxury designs, carries the line "An Unlimited You." One school's marketing gave this advice to its current and prospective students: "Be Inspired. Be Challenged. Be Excellent. Be You." People everywhere say, "Be true to yourself," "Follow your heart," "Be yourself," "You do you." We live in an age of unprecedented interest in the subject of personal identity.

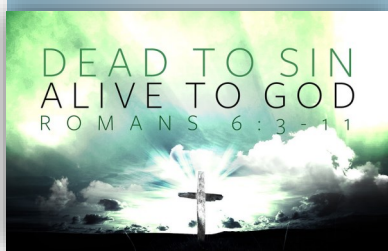
Most people today believe there is only one place to look to find yourself, and that is inward. Personal identity is a do-it-yourself project. All forms of external authority are to be rejected, and everyone's quest for self-expression should be celebrated. You are who you feel yourself to be on the inside, and acting in accordance with this identity constitutes living authentically. This movement is sometimes called expressive individualism.

Dangers of Self Focus

In itself, of course, there is nothing wrong with looking inward. Personal exploration and self-reflection are valuable (2 Corinthians 13:5). The desire to see many marginalized groups in society, whose identity markers differ from the mainstream, given appropriate dignity is commendable. And authenticity as a moral ideal is a good thing. However, notwithstanding these benefits, there are fatal flaws with the strategy of only looking inward to find yourself.

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Dead to Sin-Alive in Christ

"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2)May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3)Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized in- to Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4)Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5)For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6)knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7)for he

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From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

FRAGILE SELF

First, the focus on self generates a fragile self, easily destabilized and lacking in genuine and lasting self-knowledge. Receiving her honorary doctorate from New York University, Taylor Swift summed up the identity cultural moment in this way: "We are so many things, all the time. And I know it can be overwhelming figuring out who to be. . . . I have some good news: It's totally up to you. I also have some terrifying news: it's totally up to you."

Along with the exciting opportunity to find yourself comes the daunting possibility of not succeeding — or of not liking what you find. The cruel irony is that while it's never been more important to know who you are, it's never been more difficult. According to Kevin Vanhoozer, "The human race is suffering from a collective identity crisis" (The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine, 158).

DEPRESSED SELF

Looking inward to find yourself also fails to lead to the good life. Many widely reported societal trends suggest that life is getting worse rather than better for many people: rises in cases of anxiety and depression, an explosion of narcissism, the absence of compassion in our society, our culture of reflexive outrage, and (by any measure) a fall in happiness and well-being.

People point in many directions for an explanation of such trends: not enough mindfulness, technology addling our brains, crowd behavior, the failure of major institutions (politicians, churches, media, banks), loss of shared values, absence of community cohesion, and so on. However, some of these are symptoms rather than causes. I suggest that a big part of the problem comes from where we're looking to find ourselves. And that means the solution includes a broader perspective.

Where to Look to Find Yourself

Being social beings, we look around to others; we know ourselves by being known, intimately and personally, by those around us. The limitations of self-knowledge are impressed upon me every time I shop for clothes and the change room has more than one mirror. Or when I listen to my voice on a recording. In both cases, I think, Who is that?

You and I might like to think of ourselves as boldly expressing our individuality in order to find our true selves, but the truth is that rather than a being a single soaring eagle, eyeing our prey from a great height, we are more like a honking goose in a tight V-shaped flight formation. Like geese, we humans are also wired to be interdependent, secure in a network of relationships, with invisible connections and indissoluble ties.

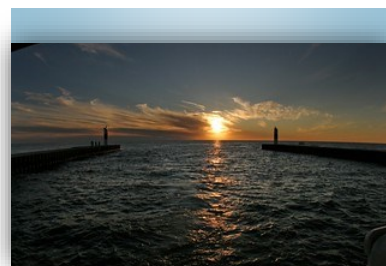
Being storytelling beings, we also look backward and forward to our life stories. Your story is fundamental to your personal identity, but it's not an individual story: we live in shared stories. The metanarrative, or big story, in which each of us lives is a combination of defining moments, goals, and expectations of life. These can be related to the stories of our families, nations, ethnicities, social classes, and religious faiths.

Being worshiping beings, we also look upward to God. This third direction is of course the most controversial, given that not everyone professes faith in God. Yet looking up, one way or another, seems to be an irrepressible human urge. The confronting truth is that we will serve the true and living God or dumb idols (Joshua 24:14–15), gods that fail. And as Peter Leithart contends, "Personal identity cannot be anchored convincingly without transcendence" (Solomon Among the Postmoderns, 131).

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"Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness." Psalm 29:2

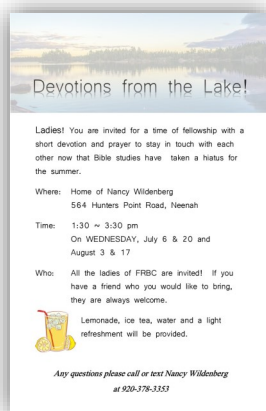


Thank you to all the ladies that joined us on Sunday, July 17th for our Ladies' Craft & Lunch! We had a great time using paints and canvas to show our individual personalities in each creation.



Pictured Left to Right: Nancy Wildenberg, Ellen Rudzinski, Marilyn Fish, Lois Peeters, Linda Hoffman, Becky Godfrey, Angela Groff

Our next event has been scheduled for Sunday, November 20th. Watch for more details in the coming months.



Nancy Wildenberg has been hosting, and has invited all the women to join her at her home for devotions and fellowship. When asked how she feels it's been going, she reported the following: "The Lord has provided beautiful weather to gather outside by the lake to enjoy a devotion to discuss, and a time of fellowship over iced tea and treats! We look forward to others coming out to join us! Hopefully the weather remains nice and

we can get a pontoon ride at our next gathering on August 3!" Consider joining them! The information is in the picture on the left.

Last month we were able to send another "Brewster Blessing" to Brewster Village. We sent a postcard with "Smarties" attached to each card for the residents. (see the picture on the right)



The Single Women's Supper has changed their meeting day and will now be meeting on the first Thursday of the month. Their next meeting will be on Thursday, August 4th at the Mad Apple, 3025 W College Ave, Appleton at 5:30pm. Contact Jan Jourdan for any questions. (920) 809-8787 or jansmail50@yahoo.com.



We will also be doing another "needs collection" for Vida this fall. Watch for more information on how you can help.

who has died is freed from sin. 8)Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9)knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. 10)For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11)Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12)Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13)and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14)For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

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Deaconess Ministry

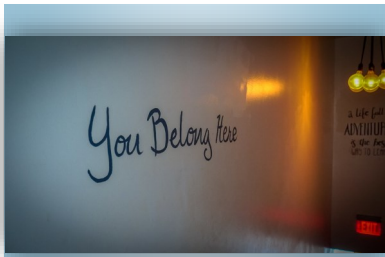
UPDATE



Worship in the Park was held on July 17th at Colony Oaks Park. There was great singing and preaching! The weather was perfect for a picnic, and the food was delicious! We had a good turnout, and the children had an especially fun time at the playground and splashing in a water table. We will be planning something for the fall, so stay

tuned! 😊

Deaconess of the Month—Laura Bressler



From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

You Are Known by God

We are profoundly social, deeply story-driven, and we have eternity in our hearts. To find ourselves, we look around, back and forth to our stories, and upward to God. According to the Bible, all three are important, but looking up is the key. And the cross of Christ makes all the difference.

Being known by others has its limitations, given the imperfection and impermanence of our relationships. One blessing of the gospel is that those who trust in Christ not only know God, but are also known by him, intimately and personally, as his children. This gives our lives comfort and significance and a stable sense of self: "Now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God . . ." (Galatians 4:9).

And this identity is a gift that shapes our conduct and character as God conforms us to the family likeness: "Those whom [God] foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers" (Romans 8:29).

You Belong to God

The gospel teaches that "you are not your own" (1 Corinthians 6:19). In the age of expressive individualism, a more countercultural statement is hard to imagine. Yet even in our day of insisting on the priority and benefits of personal autonomy, there are some contexts in which belonging to someone else is still seen in a positive light. A young child lost in a shopping mall makes no complaint when his mother turns up and claims him as her own. Likewise, while it is open to abuse, true romantic love has at its heart a mutual belonging. Countless love songs, starting with the Song of Solomon in the Bible, contain refrains along the lines of "My beloved is mine, and I am his" (2:16; see also 6:3).

Indeed, given the social animals that we are, nothing gives us more of a sense of value and worth than being loved to such an extent that we belong to another. Far from distressing or oppressive, such an embrace reassures and liberates us. Indeed, love is the context of Paul's startling assertion "You are not your own." The words following Paul's rejection of personal autonomy explain why you belong to another: "You were bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 6:19–20).

To all who are in Christ, the cross of Christ proclaims that God has claimed you as his very own; you belong to him. But surrendering yourself in this way does not lead to the eradication of your self, or any kind of oppressive subjugation. In losing yourself and belonging to one who loves you with an everlasting love, you will find your true self.

You Cannot Define Yourself

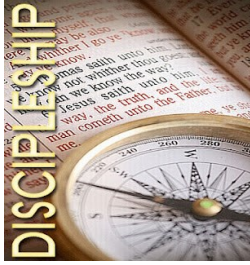
Looking up gives us a new and better story in which to live: the story of God's people. This story also offers the ultimate indictment of expressive individualism. It asserts that you don't have it within you to define yourself. You need an intervention from outside of yourself. It is both the bleakest and the brightest story on offer, pessimistic about human nature, but instilled with glorious hope.

Intriguingly, this story is based on the life story of Jesus Christ: "You died, and your identity is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life story, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory" (Colossians 3:3–4, my translation). As Colossians 3:5–17 goes on to explain, putting on the new self is at the heart of the Christian life. Believers in Christ are those who have died with Christ, who have been raised with him, and whose destiny is tied up with his glorious appearing.

15)What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! 16)Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? 17)But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, 18)and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. 19)I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification. 20)For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21)Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed?

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Intentional Discipleship Update

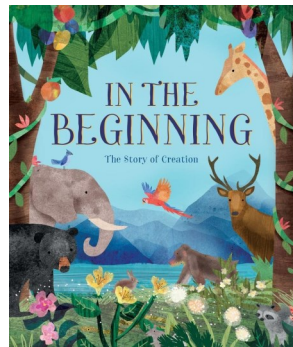


In the month of August we are continuing our summer break from our Bible Studies and Sunday School. However, on August 14th and August 28th we will be doing two Sunday School classes on the Puritans. We hope that you will join us for one or both of these Sundays as they will be informative

and helpful in our understanding of those who came before us and were so passionate about the things of God.



Children's church is focusing on creation this month. Gracie, Jordon, and Elliot are all learning that we are made in the image of God. We demonstrated this by making puppets of themselves. We had fun talking about how every creature was made in their own kind. The kids are also singing together a few songs. I would like to start teaching songs that were popular when I was in Sunday School. If you are interested in our little group please see Carol or me for details.



By Linda Hoffman
or Angela Groff
Church Librarians

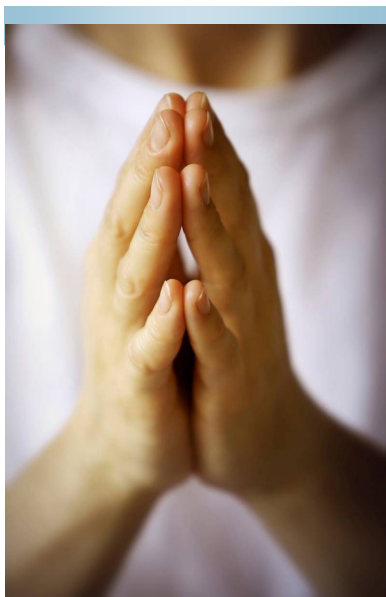
Are you checking out the library? We have many titles that are very good reading for anything you're looking for. Take a walk down to the library! You won't be sorry you did! You may even find out something you didn't know before.



God's Creation

For the outcome of those things is death. 22)But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. 23)For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:1-23



Sunday Evening Services Schedule

August 7—No Evening Service
 August 14—Prayer at 5 pm
 August 21—Solo Christos at 5 pm
 August 28—Prayer at 5 pm



SUNDAY



Financial Update—April 3-24, 2022
 Budget needed weekly: \$ 2,952.00
 Received: \$ 1,914.00
 Contact Mark Wildenberg with questions.



Men's & Women's
 Bible Study
 Saturdays at 8am

Women's Bible Study
 Thursdays at 1:15pm

Women's Prayer
 Wednesdays at 9:30am



August 7

Pat Groff

August 14

Howard Schimke

August 21

Bob Abitz

August 28

Scott Smith



Please contact **Carol Smith** at
(920) 788-9795

to volunteer in 3 different
 capacities in our children's
 ministry. There are also sign-up
 sheets for the different rooms
 you can serve in down the
 children's Sunday School wing.

St Joseph's Food Pantry

Each month we will collect non-perishable food items.
 Place your food items on the table provided in the foyer.



Connect
 WITH OUR
 CHURCH FAMILY

Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for the sharing of prayer request needs and for sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work God does in our lives. Please feel free to share any praise or request at our new prayer request email address: prayer@foxriverbaptist.com

Care to be part of the prayer chain? Email or call Becky Godfrey at becl.godfrey@gmail.com — (920) 277-1526 or Linda Hoffman at hofflad@gmail.com—(715) 255-3809.

Missions

“Go Ye into all the World, and preach
the Gospel to every creature.”
Mark 16:15

The next Mission Committee meeting will be on August 29th at 6:30pm at the church.



UPDATE...

1. Young@Heart has placed an informational sheet on their bulletin board about Elder Match of the Fox Cities. This is an organization looking for volunteers to make home visits to elderly community members. If this would be something you would be interested in, take a look at the information and give them a call.
2. Our next service at Care Partners is Aug.4 at 10:30, and will continue to be the first Thursday of each month.
3. Our next committee meeting is in late September, date to be decided.

Lynn Abitz

The Message of Salvation

"But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9)because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.10)For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11)For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."12)For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.

13)For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14)How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15)And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" Matthew 18:2-5

FRBC Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.



5—Doris Schimke
9—Ray Rudzinski
10—Michael Stark
10—Kyle Tubbs
11—Becky Godfrey
21—Cindy Kempen
26—Chris Wynkoop
29—Carl Zwerg
31—Diane VanLoo



5—Scott & Carol Smith
12—Luke & Becca Rickert
17—Ray & Ellen Rudzinski
31—Tim & Becky Godfrey



Fox River Baptist Church

2600 East Henry Street
Appleton, WI 54915

Phone: 920-734-6162
E-mail: office@foxriverbaptist.com
Website: foxriverbaptist.com

Office Hours: Wednesday &
Thursday - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm