



May2023

# Fox River Life



*The following is an article written by Sinclair Ferguson he is a Ligonier teaching fellow and Chancellor's Professor of Systematic Theology, Reformed Theological Seminary.*

*In His Name & For His Glory,*

*Pastor Tim*

**Part 2**

## **Holiness Is Christlikeness**

So, Paul always balances his emphases. We need to put on as well as put off. The works of the flesh need to be superseded by the fruit of the Spirit. This is the point of Thomas Chalmers's famous sermon on 1 John 2:15, "The Expulsive Power of a New Affection."

"Sanctification is not merely the process of overcoming our sin; it is, ultimately, becoming like the Lord Jesus." For this is the goal of the Father who has "predestined us to be conformed to the image of his Son" (Romans 8:29). He will be content with nothing less.

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This is also the passion of the Holy Spirit, by whom we “are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another” (2 Corinthians 3:18). For it is this — Christlikeness — that constitutes the “holiness without which no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). A staggering thought, but a wonderful motivation: nothing in us that is un-Christlike will be able to last in the presence of God! Therefore, any less goal than pursuing the knowledge of Christ and growing into his likeness is not worth living for. Only that in you that reflects him will last forever. But it will last forever.

### **The Order**

In addition to balance in Paul's words — negative and positive — there is also order in his gospel grammar. It is not always the order of his words, but it is always the order of his logic. For gospel logic, and therefore gospel grammar, never changes. It has a fixed order. And as it happens, Augustine's text is particularly helpful here because the order of the literary grammar is identical with the logic of the gospel's grammar. Not only are putting on and putting off balanced, but putting on the Lord Jesus Christ is primary and foundational. It is always the first principle in Paul's theological grammar when he writes about our sanctification.

But why? The answer is embossed on the pages of Scripture. Our fundamental need is not for “mortification” or even for “sanctification.” It is for the Lord Jesus Christ himself. Mortification and sanctification are but the pathway to “Christification”! And as Abraham Kuyper shrewdly put it, there are no other resources in heaven or on earth for the Holy Spirit to employ to make us Christlike outside of Christ himself. Only in him are there resources appropriate and adequate to transform sinful humans into Christlike ones. Sanctification is not deification, but it is transformation into the likeness of the holy humanity of our Lord Jesus, and glorification is the end of the process. For then “we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2).

Only when we are “in Christ,” only when we have “put on Christ” — “who became to us . . . sanctification” (1 Corinthians 1:30) — and have taken him as ours, receiving him as our clothing, wrapping ourselves in him, does becoming like him begin. Otherwise, we are merely seeking to re-make ourselves according to the pattern of moral ideals (even if they are those of the Ten Commandments or the Sermon on the Mount). We are missing the point. For our chief need is to “be found in Christ” and to “know him and the power of his resurrection, and . . . share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible [we] may attain the resurrection from the dead” (Philippians 3:9–10).

(continued on page 4)



New projects and crafts in June.

If you have some creative ideas or questions please see Ellen, Becky Or Angela.



**Memorial Day May 29th**

So, all we need is found in Christ. Everything you need is found in Christ. Mortification, sanctification, and glorification all begin and end in Christ alone. When he fills our horizon, all the other elements in sanctification make grammatical sense: mortification and vivification are balanced in our “conversation”; sanctification develops like a well-crafted sentence. Yes, there will be punctuation marks, and perhaps even unfinished sentences (Paul knew all about that). But if we look elsewhere, our lives will not speak clearly of our Savior and Lord.

### **Give Me Christ**

This was what Augustine saw — the very man who once prayed, “Give me continence, but not yet.” He had things the wrong way around. He needed first to say, “Give me Christ.”

This has perhaps never been better expressed than by the Reformer who wrote (albeit not completely accurately!) that Augustine was “totally ours” — namely, John Calvin. His words make a fitting closing meditation for us:

\*When we see salvation whole — and every single part — is found in Christ, we must beware lest we derive the smallest drop from somewhere else.

\*If we seek salvation, the very name of Jesus teaches us that he possesses it. \*If other Spirit-given gifts are sought — in his anointing they are found.

\*If strength — in his reign; purity — in his conception; tenderness — expressed in his nativity, when he was made like us in all respects, that he might learn to feel our pain.

\*Redemption when we seek it, is in his passion found; acquittal — in his condemnation lies; and freedom from the curse — in his cross is known.

\*If satisfaction for our sins we seek — we’ll find it in his sacrifice; and cleansing in his blood.

\*If reconciliation now we need, for this he entered Hades; if mortification of our flesh — then in his tomb it’s laid; and newness of our life — his resurrection brings; and immortality as well comes also with that gift.

And if we also long to find heaven’s kingdom our inheritance, his entry there secures it now with our protection, safety too, and blessings that abound — all flowing from his kingly reign. The sum of all for those who seek such treasure-trove of blessings, these blessings of all kinds, from nowhere else can now be drawn than him; they’re found in Christ alone. (Institutes 2.16.19) So, let us “put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.”



## Thursday Afternoon Bible Study

We should be finishing our study of 1,2,3 John by the end of May. We will break from a formal study for the summer and resume in the fall. We will meet once a month through the summer. More on that in the next newsletter.

Nancy Wildenberg

### Children's Church

This has been a fun time in Children's Church as we spent several weeks introducing the kids to the events of Holy Week. We started by acting out the triumphal entry complete with pretend donkeys and paper palm branches. We had a delicate discussion about Good Friday and acted out taking Jesus's body off the cross, wrapping it in linen and placing it in a makeshift tomb! We were very excited about Resurrection Sunday because the kids thought they were coming to get His body and prepare it for burial like the women who went to the tomb early in the morning.

Jordan had the **BEST** reaction when he entered the room and didn't find it as we had left it the week before. He exclaimed "**WHERE IS HE? HE IS NOT HERE!**" **EXACTLY!** Good discussion about the resurrection!!



# DISCIPLESHIP

## Bible Study

Even though the weather has not been consistently showing that we are heading to summer, the calendar says otherwise. With that will come some breaks for Sunday School and also for the Bible Studies.

Sunday school will meet for the first three of the Sunday's in May and we will not be meeting on the 28th due to the Memorial Weekend. It is possible we will go into a Sunday or so in June, but we will let you know that as we get closer. We have just started the next unit in Sunday School and would welcome you to join us.

The Bible Studies for Men and Women are going strong and you are always welcome to jump into them wherever we are at in the studies. I believe that no matter where you start a Bible Study you will be blessed for your participation. We will be meeting for these studies through May and by the June Newsletter we will hopefully be able to share with you what the Summer Schedule will look like.

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)

In His Name & For His Glory, Pastor Tim



“Give yourself to reading.’... You need to read. Renounce as much as you will all light literature, but study as much as possible sound theological works, especially the Puritanic writers, and expositions of the Bible.”

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

**New church library changes in June Newsletter**



## Sunday Evening Services Schedule

**May 7—No Evening Service**

**May 14 —No Evening Service**

**May 21—Solus Christus @ 5:00 pm**

**May 28—Prayer @ 5:00 pm**



Financial Update 2023  
Budget needed weekly: \$ 2836.35  
Received: \$ 3,214.80 per week  
Contact Mark Wildenberg with questions.



Women's Prayer  
Wednesdays at 9:30am

Women's Bible Study  
Thursdays at 1:00pm

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

*Connect*  
WITH OUR  
CHURCH FAMILY



**May 7**  
**Pat Groff**

**May 14**  
**Christopher Smith**

**May 21**  
**Ray Rudzinski**

**May 28**  
**Jeffery Smith**



Please contact Carol Smith at  
(920) 788-9795  
to volunteer for Nursery  
ministry. There is a sign-up  
sheet at the front desk.

# Missions

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

## MISSIONS BOARD

Missions Board will meet June 5th to review the Yearly Update forms ,which have been returned by each of our missionaries. We hope to have good highlights for you in the upcoming Missions Spotlights.

Young at Heart will be conducting worship services at Care Partners on May 4th. If you haven't participated before, but would like to, please contact Lynn Abitz, At 920-788-9482.



## Single Women Group

Meeting for lunch at GameDay on the 3rd Sunday of April  
Any questions please contact Gail Kroehler at 920-731-7739.



#### 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.



01—Ian Dohms  
04—Ryan Smith  
04—Jeffery Smith  
17—Lois Peeters  
17—Scott Smith  
21—Kate Anders  
26—Tim Godfrey  
29—Chuck Bintzler



07—Ethan and Kate Anders  
20—Aaron and Laura Bressler

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Website: [foxriverbaptist.com](http://foxriverbaptist.com)

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday  
& Thursday - 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm



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:

#### Care to be part of the prayer chain?

Email or call Becky Godfrey at  
[becl.godfrey@gmail.com](mailto:becl.godfrey@gmail.com) —  
(920) 277-1526