



October 2023

Fox River Life



The following article is written by Dr. Steven J. Lawson who is founder and president of One Passion Ministries in Dallas. He is a Ligonier Ministries teach-

ing fellow, professor of preaching and dean of D. Min. studies at The Master's Seminary, and host of the Institute for Expository Preaching. He is author of many books, including The Passionate Preaching of Martyn Lloyd-Jones, John Knox: Fearless Faith, and The Moment of Truth.

Can you imagine a Christian couple actually praying about living together before marriage? Can you fathom a young woman who professes Christ even bothering to pray about whether she should marry an unbeliever? Can you grasp a Christian businessman having to pray about whether he should tell the truth in a transaction? When the Word of God is so clear, praying to discern God's will becomes a convenient excuse—or even a prolonged filibuster—to avoid doing what Scripture commands.

Many who profess Christ today emphasize a wrong view of grace that makes it a free pass to do whatever they please. Tragically, they have convinced themselves that the Christian life can be lived without any binding obligation to the moral law of God. In this hyper-grace distortion, the need for obedience has been neutered. The commandments of God are no longer in the driver's seat of Christian living, but have been relegated to the backseat, if not the trunk—like a spare tire—to be used only in case of an emergency.

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With such a spirit of antinomianism, what needs to be reinforced again is the necessity of obedience.

For all true followers of Christ, obedience is never peripheral. At the heart of what it means to be a disciple of our Lord is living in loving devotion to God. But if such love is real, the acid test is obedience. Jesus maintained, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments” (John 14:15). Genuine love for Christ will always manifest itself in obedience.

This does not mean that a Christian can ascend to sinless perfection. This will never be realized this side of glory. Neither does it imply that a believer will never disobey God again. Isolated acts of disobedience will still occur. But the new birth does give a new heart that desires to obey the Word. In regeneration, God says: “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.” (Ezek. 36:26–27)

In this heart transplant, God causes the believer to pursue Spirit-energized obedience. The Apostle John agrees when he writes, “And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments” (1 John 2:3). In the new birth, the elect are granted saving faith, and they immediately begin to walk in “the obedience of faith” (Rom. 1:5). There is no timelapse between the time of conversion and when one begins to obey Christ. The exercise of saving faith is the first step of a life of obedience. When Jesus preached, “Repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:14–15), this was issued as an urgent imperative. The gospel is more than an offer to be considered—it is a word from God to be obeyed. John writes, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life” (John 3:36). In this verse, believing in Christ and obeying Him are used synonymously. Simply put, true faith is obedient faith. Our obedience of faith is not the grounds upon which God declares us righteous, but it reveals our faith to be genuine.

At the moment of conversion, we transfer our allegiance from our old master, sin, to a new Master, Jesus Christ. Paul explains, “Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?” (Rom. 6:16). Here, the Apostle quotes a general axiom in life, namely, that slaves live in obedience to their ruling master. In conversion, there is an exchange of masters, a relinquishing of our old bondage to sin for a new loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul further stresses this truth: “You who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, became slaves of righteousness” (Rom. 6:17–18). Everyone is a slave, either of sin or of righteousness. Before conversion, we were slaves of sin and lived in obedience to sin. But in conversion, we became slaves of Christ and live in obedience to Him.

Throughout one’s Christian life, John claims that genuine believers will continue to “keep his commandments.” “Keep” is in the present tense, indicating an ongoing obedience throughout the entirety of a believer’s life. Here is the perseverance of the saints. All who are born again will pursue obedience to the end. “Commandments” is plural, indicating obedience to the full spectrum of the divine requirements. Following Christ does not allow for selective obedience. Rather, we must obey all the commandments of God, not merely the convenient ones.

When John says believers “keep” the commandments, this pictures a guard or watchman watching over a priceless treasure. In like manner, the one who knows God will keep a sharp watch overall that His Word requires. “And his commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3), but they are a blessing (Ps. 1:1). Every step of heart-prompted obedience leads to experiencing abundant life in Christ. Conversely, every step of disobedience takes us away from the joy of divine goodness.

Far from being optional, grace-fueled obedience is absolutely necessary for Christlikeness. Is there any need to pray about whether or not to obey God's Word? You just need to obey.

In His Name & For His Glory,

Pastor Tim Godfrey

Deaconess updates

The Deaconesses are going to be meeting next week to plan a Christmas event...more information will come after our meeting.

Our Mission Statement is to assist the Pastor in some of his pastoral care duties, to minister to the needs of the members at FRBC and to promote fellowship within the Body

Food of the Month Forecast

TUNA

Food is what drives us, and it's no surprise that much of our food supply comes from donations. We welcome nonperishable food items all year long, but sometimes our generous supporters do not know exactly what we need. In order to remove the guesswork around food donations, we are focusing on a specific need each month.

Our goal is to get 2,000 cans of Tuna for October



Children's Church and Nursery

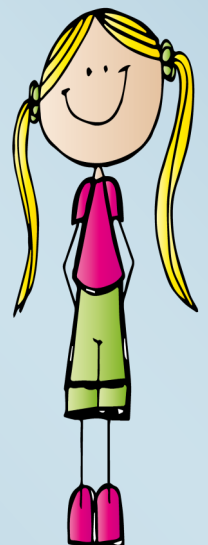
Children's church continues to be a challenge as sometimes we only have 2 preschoolers and other times we have 4 to 6 elementary age kids. The fun part comes when we have both the preschoolers AND the older kids!!!

We have been teaching them about our great God and how He delivered the Israelites from Egypt by showing His power to Pharaoh by sending 10 plagues. Last week we connected the lamb's blood over the door posts of their homes (as the way the Israelites were saved from the plague of the death of the firstborn) to how Jesus's blood saves us from ultimate death...therefore He is called the Lamb of God.

That blew their minds!!!

We are continuing this week by demonstrating the journey through the wilderness and building of the tabernacle.

Wish us luck!!!!



DISCIPLESHIP



Intentional Discipleship

Men & Women's Saturday Morning Bible Study:

Both of these studies are currently working through books of the Bible. The Men are finishing up Revelation and will be kicking it off with Chapter 21. Even though we are at the end, I would encourage the men to attend so that you can get into the routine of attendance for the next book. For more Information contact either Scott or Ryan Smith. As the men are finishing up a book the ladies have just recently started one before the break, 1 Corinthians. For more Information contact Becky Godfrey, Ellen Rudzinski, or Carol Smith. They are currently in chapter five and so joining now would not be an issue and you would be more than able to catch up.

Women's Thursday Afternoon Bible Study:

Thursday afternoon ladies bible study began their study of 1Peter on Sept. 14. Not too late to join us ~ we would love to have you!

Sunday School:

We will be continuing our Sunday School Curriculum this fall as we are in the book of Acts and the beginning of church taught by Ray Rudzinski. The workbooks are available in the Fellowship Hall and if you are able put \$5 in the offering plate per book. For more information contact Scott Smith at 920-903-7444.

October 29th:

Reformation Sunday Evening service @ 5:00 pm where we will be looking at the life of one of the Reformers.

Women's Ministry

Latest news from Vida's Trinity House—Sadly, the opening has been delayed due to staff shortage. Interviews are taking place for full-time, live-in staff as well as for one part-time, live-out position. Please keep this need in your prayers.

The good news is that Trinity House Policy and Procedure Documents are nearing completion. Also, the security system has been installed. Praise the Lord for these accomplishments.

To help fulfill other needs, our "Semi-annual Giving Opportunity" for Vida and Trinity House is taking place through the month of October.

A Pack-n-Play is in the lobby, ready to receive the gifts. Specific needs are: Baby wash, newborn-size diapers, and personal hygiene items for moms. Other items are also welcome.

October Woman's Craft Day

This year's Christmas blessing for Brewster Village will be to visit the residents for a time of Christmas carols and sweet treats. We will also give them each a home-made tree ornament. We will make these ornaments at our Craft Day on October 28. Be watching the Sunday bulletin for details of both of these events—Craft Day and Visit to Brewster Village.





Sunday Evening Services Schedule

October 01—Ask Pastor Tim @ 5:00pm

October 08—Prayer @ 5:00pm

October 15—Solus Christus @5:00pm

October 22—Prayer @ 5:00 pm

October 29—Reformation Sunday@5:00



Financial Update 2023
Budget needed weekly: \$ 2836.35
Received: \$ 2,289.25 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



October 01
Jeffery Smith

October 08
Kyle Tubbs

October 15
Bob Abitz

October 22
Scott Smith

October 29
Ryan Smith



Please contact Carol Smith at
(920) 788-9795
to volunteer for Nursery

Connect
WITH OUR
CHURCH FAMILY

Missions

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

Mark 16:15

MISSIONS BOARD

Missions Board will meet 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 providing our monthly service at Care Partners on Thursday October 5th at 1030 am. If you would be interested in joining us, please see Lynn Abitz at 920-788-9482



Single Women's Ministry



The **Single Women's Ministry** will be meeting on
October 8th after Church
Service, meet at Game Day at 12:30 pm

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.



02—Lynn Mlodzik

05—Ruby Ziemendorf

18—Sara Smith

25—Elliot Bressler

Fox River Baptist Church

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Website: 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:

Prayer@FoxRiverBaptist.com

Care to be part of the prayer chain?

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