



NEWSLETTER

Tanglewood Bible Fellowship

EIC: Wendy Powers

The Mission of TBF is to glorify God (Psalm 86:11-13; 115:1 and 1 Peter 2:12; 4:16) by actively participating in the ongoing fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) as a body of believers (1 Cor 12:13; 1 John 5:1-5) who collectively/individually (Phil 1:27) serve our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 12:1-2) and one another (Phil 2:3-4) functioning as a spiritual Greenhouse (Eph 4:11-16) such that by our interactions together we are catalyzed to grow (Acts 2:42) and to reproduce (Acts 2:47) spiritually

Love One Another

In John 13:34 Jesus taught, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” Then He added, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (verse 35). How do we do this? What does it mean to love one another?

The “one another” in these verses is a reference to fellow believers. A distinguishing mark of being a follower of Christ is a deep, sincere love for brothers and sisters in Christ. The apostle John reminds us of this fact elsewhere: “He has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister” (1 John 4:21).

In giving this command, Jesus did something the world had never seen before—He created a group identified by one thing: love. There are many groups in the world, and they identify themselves in any number of ways: by skin color, by uniform, by shared interest, by alma mater, etc. One group has tattoos and piercings; another group abstains from meat; yet another group wears fezzes—the ways people categorize themselves are endless. But the church is unique. For the first and only time in history, Jesus created a group whose identifying factor is love. Skin color doesn’t matter. Native language doesn’t matter. There are no rules about diet or uniforms or wearing funny hats. Followers of Christ are identified by their love for each other.

The early church demonstrated the type of love Jesus was talking about. There were people in Jerusalem from all over the known world (Acts 2:9–11). Those who were saved got together and immediately began meeting each other’s needs: “All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need” (Acts 2:44–45). This was love in action, and you can be sure it made an impression on the people of that city.

Jesus’ statements in John 13:34–35 raise a couple of other questions that may be good to answer. First, how does Jesus love? He loves unconditionally (Romans 5:8), sacrificially (2 Corinthians 5:21), with forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32), and eternally (Romans 8:38–39). At the same time, Jesus’ love is holy—characterized by transcendent moral purity—because He is holy (Hebrews 7:26). The culmination of Christ’s amazing love for us is His death on the cross, burial, and bodily resurrection (1 John 4:9–10). Believers are to love each other like that.

Second, how then can the believer in Christ love as Christ loved? The believer in Christ has the Holy Spirit living within him (1 Corinthians 6:19–20). By obeying the Spirit, through the Word of God, the believer can love like Christ does. He shows that unconditional, sacrificial, forgiving love to fellow believers, but it doesn’t stop there. He also shows the love of Christ to friends, to family members, to coworkers, etc. (Ephesians 5:18–6:4; Galatians 5:16, 22–23). Even enemies are the recipients of Christ’s love (see Matthew 5:43–48).

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Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 AM

Adult Services AND Children’s (0-12 years) Programs
Youth (6th -12th grade) meets Sunday evenings at 6 PM

Wednesday P.M. Service: 6:30-7:30 PM

A Word from Pastor David Shields

TBF family,

We are going to study the Psalms of Ascent in the month of June. These are Psalms 120-134. Four were written by David (122, 134, 131, and 133), one by Solomon (127), and the other ten were penned by anonymous authors. They are called the Psalms of Ascent because each Psalm begins by describing itself as a “Song of Ascents.” The book of Psalms does not tell us exactly what this means, but we have a fairly good idea. Most scholars believe these Psalms were typically sung as people made their pilgrimage toward Jerusalem. There are a few different explanations for when exactly they were sung.

One opinion is the Israelites could have sung them while returning from Babylon to Jerusalem. These would have been their anthems as they ascended from the valley of exile back into their homes in Israel. I am certain Israel sang many of the Psalms as they return to their land. However, I think the Psalms typically describe when they are related to a specific event.

Another option is that they sang these Psalms as they ascended towards Jerusalem during their annual festivals, like Passover, Unleavened Bread, Weeks, and Tabernacles. The Jews would have sung these songs as ascended the hills walking up toward the temple. I think this makes the most sense because of how often they would be repeated. They would have marching or traveling songs that became part of their liturgical habits.

Jewish oral tradition says these songs were related to the fifteen steps between the court of women and the court of Israel. It is possible the Levite singers sang a psalm on each step as they slowly ascended closer to the temple.

While we may not be annually ascending toward the temple in Jerusalem, we are on a pilgrimage. Like in Pilgrim’s Progress, we are pilgrims slowly ascending toward our true home with Jesus. My hope is that our study of these Psalms will encourage us. They will remind us to lift up our eyes to our Savior as we journey through this life.

In Christ,
Pastor David Shields

From Pg. 1

Christ’s love displayed through the believer is unlike the “love” generated by the flesh, which can be selfish, egotistical, unforgiving, and insincere. First Corinthians 13:4–8 gives a wonderful description of what Christ’s love will be like in and through the believer who walks in the Spirit.

People don’t naturally love with a 1 Corinthians 13-type love. To love like that, there must be a change of heart. A person must realize that he is a sinner before God and understand that Christ died on the cross and rose again to provide him forgiveness; then he must make the decision to accept Christ as his personal Savior. At that point he is forgiven by Christ and receives God’s gift of eternal life—in fact, he becomes a participant in the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). In Christ he knows that he is genuinely loved by God. The new life the believer receives includes a new capacity to love like Christ loves, for the believer now has living within him the unconditional, sacrificial, forgiving, eternal, and holy love of God (Romans 5:5).

To love one another is to love fellow believers as Christ loves us. Those who love like Christ in the Holy Spirit’s power will give evidence that they are disciples, or learners, of Jesus Christ.

GotQuestions.com

What's Happening at TBF

- ✚ WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER AND SHARE Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Join us for a time of prayer and praise followed by a lesson from Pastor David.
- ✚ DAILY DEVOS WITH PASTOR DAVID - TBF Facebook Page
- ✚ MISS A SUNDAY? Check out the sermons on the TBF Facebook page or tbfduncan.org
- ✚ WOMEN OF TANGLEWOOD BIBLE FELLOWSHIP- Facebook page
- ✚ TBF WORSHIP TEAM MUSIC PRACTICE. Join Us! See Dale Corbin or Lana Sleeper for details.
- ✚ WOMEN OF TANGLEWOOD BIBLE FELLOWSHIP- Facebook page
- ✚ TBF YOUTH - Meets Sunday Nights at 6 PM (Study)
- ✚ YOUTH SUMMER CAMP - June 12th-16th Falls Creek
- ✚ SUPER SUMMER SATURDAYS - June, July, August
- ✚ WOMEN OF JOY CONFERENCE—October 27-29th

TBF Men's Ministries

Breaking for the summer. New study this fall.

**Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.
I Corinthians 16:13-14**

Kindred Community

**New Hope Church
Hosted by Tanglewood Bible Fellowship
Tuesday, June 20th 6:00 – 8:00 PM**

Check TBF church bulletins for details. Erika Clonts will be our point person.
Helpers needed. Be sure to save the date and volunteer.

If you are a TBF woman with a heavenly husband or know of a woman you would like to invite to this event, please RSVP - Jan Palovik 580.786.6009

TBF *Women's Ministries*

Super Summer Saturdays

June 10, July 15, and August 12

Get ready for some super summer fellowship and fun on Super Summer Saturdays. The dates, places and speakers are all set. Mark your calendars as you will not want to miss a single one of these!

- **June 10th** at the home of Carol Wanzor, 2540 S. 27th St in Duncan. Community service organization to be highlighted is One True Light ministry. Joan Brock will be our guest speaker.

Save the date! **July 10 thru July 13.** 9 am to 1 pm each day. Super Summer Food and Fun is a ministry of One True Light that seeks to help provide food for those in need during the summer. The Women's ministry will be teaming up with the Youth group to organize a church wide week of service to help this worthwhile community ministry. For more information come to Super Summer Saturday.

- **July 15** at the home of Jan Palovik, 916 Willowbend in Marlow. Community service organization to be highlighted is Beautiful Day.
- **August 12** at the home of Connie Norton, 909 N. Primrose Street in Duncan. Community organization to be highlighted is Charis.

Each Super Summer Saturday will begin at 9:30 but for July 15th we will meet at the church at 9:15 to ride together.

Women of Joy

October 27th - 29th
womenofjoy.org

TBF Family Ministries

Happy June, church family!

To finish off our conversation about anger, I want to talk about the anger spiral and how to escape anger. But before we do that, let's look at our working definition of anger once more: anger is our whole person's active response to negative moral judgment against perceived evil. God displays perfect anger that is tempered by love while the Bible condemns human anger.

In Ephesians 4:31-32, Paul writes: "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Paul lists four different types of human anger. The first is bitterness, a feeling that someone has something that you deserve, or something was taken away unfairly. This feeling of bitterness is able to drum up emotions of resentment or a sense of fluster, but tends to disappear when our emotions "cool off." But if we harbor this bitterness like tending a plant, it will grow into anger, that "hot nose." It is an unproductive fury that may show itself as fiery yelling or ice-cold distancing. If we allow this anger to continue to grow it becomes wrath.

Wrath is the only form of anger that Paul explains, and he explains it as shouting and slander. At this point, the anger is not simply for the situation. It is directed toward the person themselves; you want to see their name ruined (slander) and you desire for people to see how horrible of a person they are for fighting with you (because you believe that there has been a perceived evil against you and you are happy to rain judgment upon them). The fruit of anger is malice, synonyms include wickedness and evil. This is not a good thing, but we have seen plenty of people who have let malice enter their hearts; and hard-hearted, they no longer just feud with simply their enemy, but everyone who falls short of what that person believes is right becomes a terrible person. These people are bitter and jaded and rarely smile or want to talk to others.

While the fruit of malice is not going to be produced every time we feel bitterness welling up in our hearts, it is something we need to look out for. We live in a very angry culture, and it saddens me to see how many people younger than me are already jaded and full of malice and feel hopeless because of it. In the past 21 years, the CDC says the suicide rate has increased by 36%. While anger is not the only reason for that dramatic increase, I think it does play a role, especially when paired with the fact that a study done in 2022 showed that only 28% of people attended church monthly and the membership rates among all religions have dropped to only 47% of all Americans. In our flesh, there is no way to leave this spiral of anger, and culture shows us that. No matter how far a person gets from a situation, it will not cause them to become joyful. They may have momentary happiness that ends, again, in malice.

But God does promise that change is possible. It is done by putting away the anger, not stuffing it down deep, but mortifying it (killing it) and burying it. We must put on a new man that is kind to our brothers and sisters, tenderhearted, and has self-control. Christians are the only people who are truly able to do this; because while we were still enemies Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). Through Jesus' blood God forgave us so much. As Christians we mustn't forget this fact: God is kind to us, not angry at us, while we were His enemy. No matter what another person does to us it cannot equal what we did to God; yet He calls us His children. Don't be a doormat to be walked on, but love people like Jesus: self-controlled and with a tender heart. And, if you have to address a problem, speak the truth in love.

If you would want to read more about anger, I recommend a great book: *Uprooting Anger* by Robert Jones.

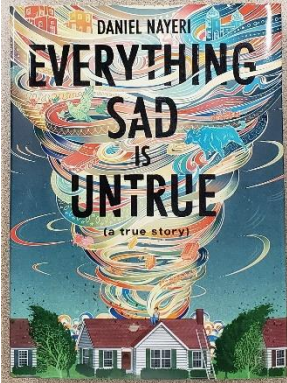
In the Love of Christ,

Pastor Rob

YOUTH SUMMER CAMP
FALLS CREEK
JUNE 12TH-16TH

David's Book Recommendations

Like many pastors, I am a big fan of books. The following books are all books you can find on my bookshelf, and I would be more than happy to lend them to anyone who would like to read them.

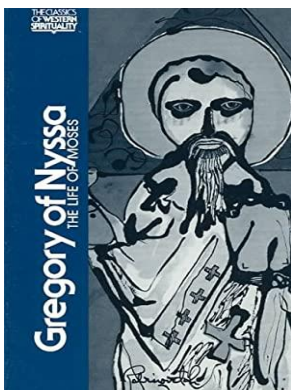
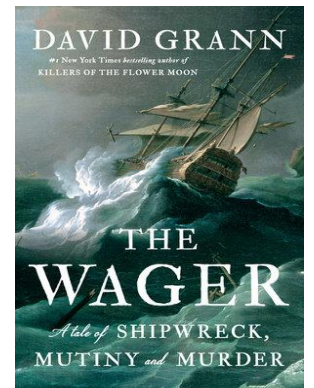


Everything Sad is Untrue by Daniel Nayeri

This is the best book I have read in a long time. It is a novelization of a memoir by an Iranian refugee who finds himself in Oklahoma. He tells it all from his perspective as a child and it was captivating. It reminded me of why I fell in love with books and stories in the first place. It is the rare book that makes you feel like you are around a campfire as a child listening to someone tell a story that captures you completely.

The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny, and Murder by David Grann

I'm a sucker for 18-19th century shipwreck stories. This one centers on a British ship that left on a secret mission during a war with Spain. It wrecks on a desolate island and, against all the odds, a number of the crew survive, make their way back to England, and are hailed as heroes. Months later, another group of the crew arrives and accuses the first group of being mutineers and murderers. I was hooked and had a hard time putting this book down.



The Life of Moses by Gregory of Nyssa

Gregory of Nyssa was a theologian who lived during the 4th century. This book is an examination of how to live a Christian life from the example of Moses. The first book is a long summary of Moses's life. The second book walks through his life more slowly and dissects it looking for spiritual truth. I don't always agree with his interpretations, particularly the allegorical ones, but I found this to be a helpful book. I find it encouraging to know that Christians have been studying Biblical characters from the very beginning.