



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.

In His Image

On the sixth day of creation, God did something He had not done before. When He created the world and everything in it, He merely spoke it all into existence (Genesis 1). But on the sixth day, He reached down into the clay and formed a man. He then "breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul" (Genesis 2:7). The breath of God created an eternal soul in the man. God made mankind in His own image; that is, Adam and Eve were more like Him than anything else He had created (Genesis 1:27). Humans would live forever, just as God will. He told the first couple to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it (verse 28). He had created them for a purpose, and all the people that came after them were created for a purpose, too.

Scattered throughout the Bible are hints about the reasons God made us. Our first hint is in the Garden of Eden. Genesis 2:15 says that God took the man He had created and put him in the garden to tend it. God had created a caretaker for His earth. He gave man dominion over everything else and gave him a job to do (Genesis 1:28). Man's first job was naming all the animals (Genesis 2:19-20). God could have named the animals Himself, but He enjoyed working with Adam the way a loving parent enjoys watching her preschooler learn a skill. So we were created for work, but not work in the way we usually define it. Work was designed to be a fulfilling way we experience God by working in harmony with Him to accomplish His goals.

We know from Psalm 139:13-16 that we were each formed by God while inside our mothers. We are His masterpieces, created by Him for unique purposes (Ephesians 2:10). God is intimately involved in our creation: "The word of the LORD came to me, saying: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I set you apart and appointed you a prophet to the nations'" (Jeremiah 1:4-5). That statement alone should overwhelm us with wonder. The Lord God Almighty, Creator of the universe, chooses us individually and then creates us exactly as He wants us to be. Scripture is clear that every human being was created by God for His pleasure and His purpose (Colossians 1:16).

If we are going to fulfill our purpose, we need to consult the Bible. The Bible tells us about who God is, who we are, and how we should live our lives. Many people try to find purpose in happiness, fun, or popularity because they are unaware that God has greater purpose for their lives. Sadly they end up empty and frustrated. But they don't need to. God has given us His Word (the Bible) so that we could learn who He is and who we are. When we consult it for direction, we have opened the roadmap that leads to our purpose.

(Con't on Pg. 3)

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

Tanglewood Family,

One of the central doctrines I remind my children of each day is the Imago Dei, or the idea that every human being is made in the image of God. I remind them that they are made in the image of God and so is everyone they will see today. This daily repetition has helped me realize how foundational and essential this belief is. Here are a few examples of the implications being made in the image of God has for our theology.

Being made in the image of God means every human life has inherent worth. Every human being's life has value because we reflect part of who God is. The world tells us that our worth and value comes from our function or what we produce. The problem with that view is that logically implies the disabled, elderly, and unborn are less valuable.

The image of God should ground how we treat other people. We treat other people as if they are made in God's image. I continually have to remind not only my children but myself as well. We are not just to love our neighbor because God says so. We are to treat them with love because how we treat them reflects how we feel about God.

The image of God is the foundation of our ethics. The way we make moral decisions and decide what actions are and are not acceptable should be grounded in the worth of human beings. Our response to abortion, euthanasia, genocide, capital punishment, etc must be founded on the idea that each human being is made in God's image.

Being made in the image of God should ground our view of ourselves. We have value just because of who we are. Not because of anything we accomplish. Not because of anything we have done or believe. Our value simply comes from being made by God. Nothing we have failed to do can take away from our value and nothing we do can add to it.

We believe that each human being was made in the image of God but that Jesus Christ is the perfect and complete image of God. This means the human body of Jesus was eternally made in the image of God in a similar way to us. Jesus gives us the example of what fully imaging God should look like.

This is just a small taste of the implications of being made in God's image. Each day that I meditate on this simple truth I am amazed at how deep it goes. Most of Christian theology, in one way or another, can tie back into the image of God. Remember as you go through this month that you and everyone you see is made in the image of God. Treat them and yourself like this is true.

In Christ, Pastor David

Don't miss Pastor David's current sermon series - the book of Esther. Sunday Mornings or on-demand at tbfduncan.org

(Con't from pg. 1)

One thing we learn is that God loves us and proved that love by sending His Son, Jesus, to show us what He is like (John 14:9). Although God loves us, our sin has separated us from Him (Romans 3:23; 6:23). Jesus came to earth and offered Himself in our place. He took the punishment our sin deserves (2 Corinthians 5:21). God raised Him from the dead three days later, proving that Jesus is Lord over everything, including death (Romans 10:9–10). Then God decreed that everyone who places faith in Jesus will be forgiven and enter a relationship with Him (John 3:16–18). So God's first desire for every human being is that we come to know Him through faith in His Son. When we know who He is, we can discover who we are.

God's goal for each of His children is that we take on a family resemblance. He wants us to be like Jesus (Romans 8:29). So He gives us spiritual gifts that enable us to serve Him in supernatural ways (1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 12:7–11). As we learn to walk in harmony with God and use our gifts to serve others, we are living our purpose.

God created us for a purpose, but that purpose will look different for every person because we are each unique. To be created in the image of God means that we were created to be mirrors of God's glory—one-of-a-kind mirrors that reflect the diverse aspects of His nature. A mirror serves no other purpose than to reflect something else. A mirror is useless when covered in mud; likewise, when we are covered in sin and turned away from God, we are not living out the purpose for which we were created. But when we respond to God's offer of salvation and allow His Holy Spirit to clean us up, we turn toward our Creator, and His glory is reflected in our lives. It is not our light or beauty the world needs to see, but His (John 8:12; 9:5).

Micah 6:8 tells us what God expects from us: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." God created us to walk with Him, talk with Him, discover His attributes, and bless the world from that perspective. To act justly is to hold ourselves to a higher standard than our old sin natures followed (1 Corinthians 10:31). We seek to learn God's commands so we can obey them. To love mercy is to become channels of the same mercy and grace that rescued us (Titus 3:5). We offer forgiveness to those who offend us and leave final judgment to God (1 Corinthians 4:5). We walk humbly with our God when we stay close to Him in good times and bad, thanking Him for every good gift and running to Him when we feel threatened (1 Thessalonians 5:18; Proverbs 18:10). When we walk humbly with our God, we store up treasure in heaven as we seek to know and follow His will. By living our lives on earth for His glory, we can one day step into His presence knowing that we have fulfilled the purpose for which He created us (1 Timothy 6:18–19; Matthew 6:20; Luke 19:17).

Gotquestions.org

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of 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." Genesis 1:26

It's Almost Time...
to welcome their new little one into the world.
Please join us in showering

Rob and Hannah Girwin

With Diapers and Gift Cards
As we eagerly await the arrival of their precious baby.

Come-and-Go Shower * Sunday, May 19th
Light reception immediately following church service.

For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well.
Psalm 139: 13-14

Diapers and gift cards may be placed in a basket or on a table set up in the church foyer May 12 and May 19.



Volunteers Needed!

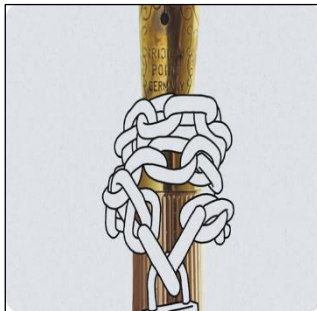
Tuesday, June 18th

TBF will be hosting Kindred Community.
There will be opportunities to serve before and the night of this special event. Join us as we bless the widows in our community.

See Brianna Shields or Erica Clonts for details.
Volunteer signup sheet is located in the church foyer.

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.
- ✚ TBF YOUTH – Meets Sunday Nights at 5:30 PM (Jam Session) and 6 PM (Study)
- ✚ AWANA CLUBS – Meets Wednesdays at 6:30 PM Ages 3-5
- ✚ DISCIPLESHIP CLASS: Culture Shock by Chip Ingram
- ✚ MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Acts 15-21
- ✚ WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Better, A Study of Hebrews by Jen Wilkin
- ✚ DIAPER AND GIFT CARD SHOWER: May 19th (For Hannah Girvin)
- ✚ PARENTING CLASS – Untangling Emotions by Alistair Groves
- ✚ SUPER SUMMER – STARTS JUNE 15TH
- ✚ KINDRED COMMUNITY HOSTED BY TBF – JUNE 18TH
- ✚ COMMUNION: May 19



TBF Men's Ministries

Acts Part 3: Chapters 15-28
Paul's 2nd and 3rd Missionary Journeys
Meets TBF Youth Room – 6:30 PM

May 13: Acts 24-26 Paul's Testimony
May 27: Acts 27-28 On to Rome (Last Session)

This final portion of Acts, specifically Acts 24-28, relives the reunions, courtroom scenes, calamities, and victories of Paul's second and third missionary journeys. It also follows Paul's later travels, visits, and imprisonments in Jerusalem and Rome. Study will wrap up in May 27th.

All men are invited. If you need materials for the study, please see Wolfgang Deeg. He usually has copies with him at church.

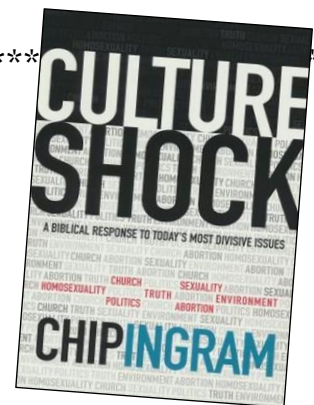
Men's Bible Study will break for the summer and resume in the fall.

Discipleship Class

Culture Shock by Chip Ingram

Session 9 & 10: May 5th and 19th Led by Mike Palovik

We'll be meeting in the youth room from 10:45 am to 11:30 am
The Nursery will be staffed on the dates we meet.



Description: Where do you stand on issues like: Truth, Sex, Homosexuality, Abortion, the Environment, and the Church and Politics? More importantly, what does God say? More than ever before, believers must develop convictions based on research, reason, and biblical truth. But it doesn't stop there. It's equally important that you're able (and willing) to communicate these convictions with a love and respect that reflects God's love. This series will help you learn how to respond with love, even in the face of controversy. In the process, you'll discover the power of bringing light—not heat—to the core issues at the heart of society today.

TBF *Women's Ministries*

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: BETTER

This month, we will complete our study *Better, A study of Hebrews*, a book by Jen Wilkin. Class meets every other Thursday. Meeting times are 9:30 AM and 6 PM.

The dates for our last two sessions are 5/2 and 5/16.

"NO STUDY" SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Look for more info on the No Study Summer Bible Study. We are planning to meet every other week on Tuesday evenings in the summer for time together at the celebration table and then reviewing a Kristi McLelland online course that is an overall look at the Old Testament. It is the study that Kristi has done prior to taking her groups to Israel. It is an amazing overview with the same insightful knowledge that we have come to expect from Kristi. It will be a no pressure, no weekly homework but a casual get together with some great Biblical information. Join us every time we get together or whenever you are not vacationing. More info on dates and times and the celebration table plans as the time gets closer.

ORGANIZATION MEETING

A meeting of the Women's Ministry organizational group will be held on Thursday, May 9th at 6:30 at TBF. Any TBF woman is welcome to attend but all "point persons" are encouraged to attend.

SUMMER FOOD AND FUN LINK ONE MINISTRIES

The Women's Ministry is joining with the Youth Group again this year to organize TBF week at Summer Food and Fun sponsored by Link One Ministries. We are responsible for the first week of June. We will be looking for 2-3 adults to join the youth group Monday thru Thursday to help prepare and distribute the food and play games with the kids at Elm Terrace. There will be a sign-up sheet as the event gets a little closer.

SUPPER SUMMER SATURDAYS

Be on the lookout for more details in May but save the date of June 15th for our first event! Save the date for the first session on June 15th. Nancy Bowling will be our speaker at the home of Kyleen Driggs.

TBF Family Ministries

Happy May, Church Family!

This month, spring has set in, and summer is hot on its tail. I want to talk about the importance of being outside. As I write this newsletter, I am dealing with allergies, and the thought of being outside does not sound pleasant. But all the more, sunshine and the great outdoors are important not only for our physical health but also our spiritual health in two ways.

One of the major ways nature helps us is by showing us the majesty of God. Everything on earth was created by God. We can acknowledge this fact on a logical level and understand that all of the creation points to God, but, especially when we are struggling, we can forget this. When Job loses everything—his riches, health, and children, and his wife tells him to simply curse God and die—Job is distraught and depressed. Throughout the middle 36 chapters of Job, we see him attempt to argue that he is a good man and that he has a desire to bring his case before God to see why bad things had to happen to him. In chapter 38, the Lord appears before Job and begins to speak to him. While we would think that God would comfort Job in his time of pain or perhaps explain the cosmic working of the world and the purpose of Job's tests, God instead, in four chapters, begins to remind Job of His power over all of creation, from His stopping of the tide in its place (38:8-11), to His power over pregnancy (39:1-4), and even His power over the cosmos (38:31-33). When we stand out in nature and breathe in a fresh breath of air it is easier to relax. It is impossible to look at the beauty of nature and think about ourselves. This past month, during the solar eclipse, I did not hear any person talking about how amazing they were as a person in the same breath as they spoke about the grandness of the moon blocking the sun from view. Nature has a way of rightsizing us. We are important to God and created in His image. We have great value, but we can focus too deeply on ourselves and begin to shift our focus inward, causing a spiral. But nature is a note that God gives us of His majesty and grandeur. He not only affixes each star in its place, but He also knows each hair on our head and each feeling we feel. God's creation is also able to expose the darkness of our lives. Pastor John Piper has been quoted saying,

"The reason strip clubs board up their windows is not primarily to stop passersby from unpaid peeks. Instead, it is to stop paying customers from looking out and seeing the sky. The owners know that if customers see the heavens, they will be reminded that a vast sky full of stars or clouds hovers above them—and mutely refutes the folly of ascribing worth to a passing pseudo-pleasure."

I really love this quote because it brings out an important truth of our lives, namely, sin hides in the dark, and under imitation light it is easier to ignore the true light. This is part of the same reason that most casinos also have no windows anywhere near the gambling floor or typically by the buffet or bar. This escalates with the "portals to hell" that each of us keeps in our pockets, and while I do appreciate technology, it is an unnatural area. This is part of the reason that social media can be so damaging. People believe that they are able to "live" without ever leaving their homes. And much like our bodies need vitamin D from the sun to live, nature is also a spiritual vitamin that God has given us: it is a need as well.

We need a lot more than nature to be healthy Christians; we also need community, scripture, prayer, and a humble attitude. At least personally, I have noticed that I never think about the importance of nature, and it can be a detriment. So this month, as the flowers begin to bloom and we have to wash the yellow off of our cars, I challenge you to breathe in deep (or as deep as you dare), look at the clouds, and thank God for all the blessings He has given you.

In the love of Christ, Pastor Rob

PARENTING GROUP

Untangling Emotions by Alistair Groves

Join the parents of TBF in March in the south classroom for dinner and book discussion. Kids are welcome and nursery will be provided. See Sunday's bulletin for dates. Led by Pastor Rob Girvin.

WOW WEDNESDAY

MAY 29th

TBF Dinner 5:15 – 6:15 PM

Menu: Lasagna, breadsticks, Jonny's salad, beverages
Hot dogs and chips for the kids
Various desserts

TBF Guest Speaker 6:30 – 7:30 PM: Pam Dobbins of the Hope Center



The Hope Center was created out of a need to provide more education and equipping for the families in Heather's Hope Housing. But we also realized that there are many families in our community who deal with issues of poverty, family challenges and limited services. There are a lot of good services in our area to help families, but families may struggle to get access to them. The Hope Center will be a place where these services can come together in one place to reach more families. Also, we want to build a community of families helping families. The Hope Center is family-centered and values families as an integral part to the program. They will be involved through a Parent Advisory Committee to help reach out to other families. There will also be activities and services added to meet the needs of the children who have had difficulties and trauma in their lives. We are still in the planning stages, but we see a lot of potential to strengthen our community by strengthening families.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

6:30 PM



Let's give our mom's a break....

**Volunteers needed in the nursery
and pre-school areas on Sunday
mornings.**

Signup sheet in the foyer.

Kindred Community

**May 14th 6-8 PM
Connection Church
Duncan, Oklahoma**

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 by May 7th - Jan Palovik 580.786.6009

TBF's 2024 Graduating Seniors

Crystal Gomez



Crystal Gomez is a Duncan High School graduate. She has been involved in Career Pathways for the past two years exploring career opportunities in radiology and other medical field occupations.

Crystal is currently dueled enrolled at Cameron University. After earning an AA, she will transfer to OSU in Stillwater where she will continue her education to obtain a degree as a (traveling) speech pathologist. She looks forward to impacting lives across various communities.

She has worked in the TBF nursery for the past three years.



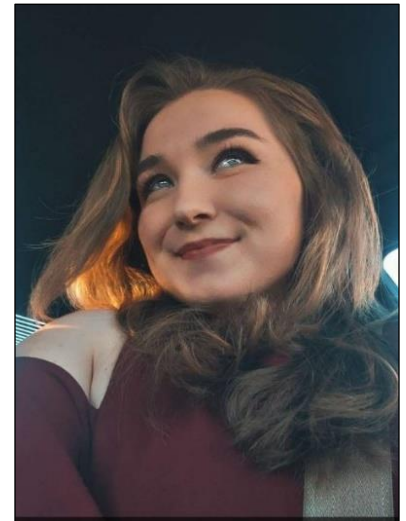
Crystal is the daughter of Dora Gomez.

Sydney Powers

Sydney Powers has earned two Bachelor of Science degrees in Entrepreneurship and Exercise Science at SWOSU in Weatherford, OK.

Her future plans include moving and working in Tulsa, OK.

Sydney Powers is the daughter of Sidney and Wendy Powers.



Amber Powers

Amber Powers has completed 4 years of graduate school at OSU earning her doctorate degree in veterinary medicine (DVM).

Her future plans include working as a veterinarian for an animal hospital in Wichita Falls, TX.

Amber Powers is the daughter of Sidney and Wendy Powers.



Congratulations to all our Graduates!!

We're So Proud of You!

Remember What You Have Been Taught

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." | Colossians 2:6-7

"He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." | Micah 6:8

"But those who wait upon the LORD will renew their strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint." | Isaiah 40:31

"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." | Proverbs 16:3

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." | Romans 8:28

"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." | Joshua 1:7-9

"Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always." | Psalm 105:4

"Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck." | Proverbs 1:8-9

Be Happy in the Lord

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." | Philippians 4:7-8

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." | 1 Corinthians 15:57-58

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." | Philippians 4:4-6

"The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad." | Psalms 126:3

"The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him." | Psalms 28:7

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice." | Philippians 4:4

Walk Forward in the Lord

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." | Philippians 2:3-4

"Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart." | Psalms 37:4

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." | Proverbs 3:5-6

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." | Colossians 3:23

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." | Jeremiah 29:13

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." | Ephesians 2:10

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men" | Colossians 3:23

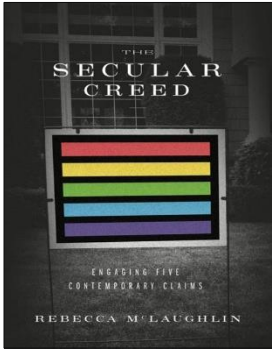
Our Prayers for You

"And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ" | Philippians 1:9-10

"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" | Colossians 1:9-10

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.

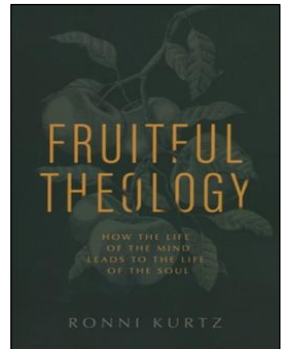


The Secular Creed: Engaging Five Contemporary Claims by Rebecca McLaughlin

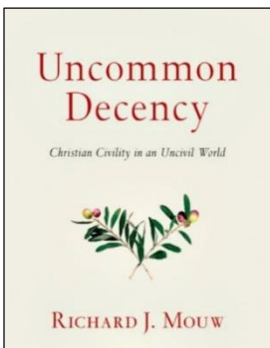
This small book is an incredible resource engaging claims the world makes. She engages each of these five credal statements, "Black Lives Matter, Love is Love, Gay Rights are Civil Rights, Women's Right Are Human Rights, and Transgender Women are Women," with compassion and conviction. Each argument is presented in its best possible light with the strongest arguments favoring that position. She then tackles how the Bible affirms or rejects part of the statement and ends with how each claim finds its ultimate fulfillment in Christ. I wish more books were written with the kind of civility and clarity as this one.

Fruitful Theology: How the life of the Mind Leads to the Life of the Soul by Ronni Kurtz

This book made me love Jesus more. The central premise is that studying theology should lead to the fruit of the spirit becoming more evident in our lives. This is not necessarily a new premise, but it is a needed reminder in our day and age. I could feel each chapter spurring me on to be more like Jesus. The chapters follow a different fruit of the spirit and show how theology should lead to growing that fruit in our lives. I wish I would have read this before I started Bible college or seminary.



Uncommon Decency: Christian Civility in an Uncivil World by Richard J. Mouw



I picked this up for a quarter at a local library sale and it blew me away. Two central premises guide the book. The first is that we need to treat and talk to other people like they are made in the image of God. Incivility is not just being unkind or acting unChristian but is fundamentally denying the imago dei. The second premise is that civility takes strong convictions seriously. His arguments for accepting nuance do not mean accepting the vagueness of plurality. Instead, civility is honest and clear about its convictions and the clear convictions of ideological opponents. It was refreshing to see a vision of civility that did not flatten issues or make them seem less important. Rather the focus is on how to have a passionate discussion without resorting to sin. Overall, this is a needed and helpful book in our age. Christians should have strong convictions and be able have a civil conversation with those they believe are seriously wrong.