

August 2024



Fox River Life



August 2024 Newsletter

The following article is written by Dr. Rosaria Butterfield and was posted on the Ligonier website (www.ligonier.org). Dr. Butterfield is an author, speaker, pastor's wife, homeschool mom, and former professor of English and women's studies at Syracuse University. She is author of several books, including The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert, Openness Unhindered, and The Gospel Comes with a House Key. Dr. Butterfield speaks from a place of understanding on the LGBTQ+ issues as she prior to her salvation was affiliated with the community. In the world in which we live it is important to have a Biblical understanding of these issues and she certainly has been helpful to us in this article.

Transgenderism is such a new concept that the 1973 Oxford English Dictionary that sits open on my desk has no entry. According to etymonline.com, the word came into existence in 1974 as an adjective referring to "persons whose sense of personal identity does not correspond with their anatomical sex." This word combines two older words.

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The first is “trans,” which is derived from part of a Latin verb that means to bring across or over, to transfer, to cause to cross, to extend across, or to convert. The second is “gender,” which derives from the French word for genre and the Latin word for genus, meaning kind, sort, or class. “Transgendered” became “transgender” after 2015 to indicate the new idea: that transgenderism is ontological, or something that is true of a person’s very essence. Today, the psychological condition where a person feels like their personal identity does not match their anatomical sex is called gender dysphoria. And there is a strong push in our culture to agree with the transgendered movement that when one’s gender, defined as their feelings of being male or female, conflicts with the biological markers of maleness or femaleness, the feelings are determinative.

Throughout most of human history, however, gender meant being male or female. There was no distinction made between one’s biological sex and one’s gender. It wasn’t until 1963 that gender began to refer to social attributes that differed from biological sex. This new definition was used by Second Wave Feminists, such as Kate Millet and Simone de Beauvoir, to miscategorize gender as the cultural manifestation of biology. Second-wave feminists argued that patriarchal society contrived gender roles merely to degrade women, thereby rejecting the biblical understanding that God created man and woman from a godly pattern for a creational purpose. Transgenderism emerged from this feminist political rejection of the creation ordinance that says God made human beings male and female, so their biological sex and not their internal feelings determines their maleness or femaleness. Transgenderism, instead, argues that our internal sense of self is what makes us men or women.

Ultimately, that feeling of disconnect between one’s body and one’s sense of gender are a consequence of the fall and its effect on our hearts, minds, and bodies. In some cases, the feeling is driven chiefly by a biological problem related to genetics or hormones. From a biblical perspective, someone with a severe hormonal imbalance or chromosomal abnormality has a physical health problem, not an identity problem. Godly help for the gender dysphoric person includes biblical counseling and potentially medical treatments that restore normative hormonal balance. Godly support for the gender dysphoric individual understands medical problems as part of the fall of man. Such trials can be serious, difficult, and lifelong.

We must learn to be content in God and unsatisfied in the world as we define our identity in light of Scripture alone.

Not all who claim to be transgendered, however, are suffering from a biological defect, and even some who are cannot reduce their feelings to a biological cause. Personal sin is still a reality. How does that come into play? Transgenderism, from the perspective of Scripture, is related to the sin of envy. Specifically, transgenderism is, at root, sinful envy of the sexual anatomy of another. Proverbs 27:3–4 paints an ugly picture of envy: “A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool’s wrath is heavier than them both. Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?” (KJV). Envy, biblically speaking, is an obsession, a driving passion that insatiably drives a person to desire another’s gifts, possessions, achievement—or sexual anatomy. About these verses, Matthew Henry says: “Those who have no command of their passions sink under the load.” Proverbs 14:30 says it bluntly: “Envy makes the bones rot.” In other words, if we do not deal with the sin of envy in its infantile stage, it will devour us. Envy will eat us from the inside out.

A “transgender identity” makes a mockery of both the Word of God and Jesus Christ our Savior. In the book of Romans, Paul situates the sin of envy as one consequence of exchanging God for idolatry. After having been given up to a “debased mind” (Rom. 1:28), Paul lists the consequences: “They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness” (Rom. 1:29). To be full of envy is to be blinded by the desire to have what belongs to someone else. Because our hearts are deceitful, some persons who claim a transgendered identity may not recognize their envy and will need help in seeing the envious root of their feelings that their gender and biological sex are different.

If transgenderism is related to the sin of envy, then genuine repentance can produce the virtue of contentment. Jeremiah Burroughs’ *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment* helps us understand how contentment is the opposite of envy. Burroughs defines “contentment” as “the inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, freely submitting to and taking pleasure in God’s disposal in every condition.” Burroughs explains that this takes “heart work within the soul,” “a quieting of the heart,” submission, which is “sending the soul under God” and “a gracious frame.” Contentment means saying and believing that God is good, just, and wise in all things. Burroughs teaches Christians to be content with and simultaneously sensible about affliction. He says that “grace teaches” that “contentment [is] the mingling of joy and sorrow.” A Christian must learn how to be content with God even while being unsatisfied in the world (either because of what the world has denied us or what original sin has bequeathed us). Because even Christians can act like “practical atheists,” it is vital for Christians to reject anything that gives a mere outward peace that does not achieve actual peace with God. How does this apply to transgenderism? We are not to pray for things unlawful. It is unlawful to reject any use of God’s moral law, and the first summary of the law of God is found in the creation ordinance in Genesis 1:27–28. As Joel Beeke reminds us, “The law is God’s revealed will for the life of angels in heaven and humans on earth.” To ask God to give us something that the law forbids is a sin. If we get what we asked for, we can be sure that we are now eating out of Satan’s hand, not God’s. A person who thinks he is transgendered must learn the same lesson as the rest of us: to be content in God and unsatisfied in the world.

Even when hormonal or chromosomal imbalance causes gender confusion, hope is found in the gospel. We live in a fallen world, and our bodies groan under sin. Ultimately, we all wait to experience the delight of renewed bodies in the new heavens and new earth. Real hope is only in the gospel. “Godliness with contentment is great gain” (1 Tim. 6:6). The modern invention of transgenderism reframes sinful deeds and desires of the flesh in worldly or therapeutic terms. This betrays the power of God’s election, Christ’s redemption, and the Spirit’s comfort. It rewrites the gospel, entangles the church in foolish debates, and confuses our young people. This is the situation in which we find the evangelical church today. We must learn to be content in God and unsatisfied in the world as we define our identity in light of Scripture alone. “Taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!” (Ps. 34:8).

Children's Church

Carol Smith 3-6 years old

Children's Church is going very well. We are learning the books of the Bible in order and they are loving it. We have had fun learning about the first 5 Kings of Israel. Jonah and the whale and Elijah's challenge to the prophets of Baal.

Very eager Learners !!!

Angela Groff 7-12 years old

Our Sunday School class has been blessed with our Missionary's Children. Faith and Asher Poirier, Henry and Josie Citac.

Our kids will be writing to the missionary kids , as sort of starting a Pen Pal relationship. The kids will write, color pictures and sending sticker to their fellow Pen Pal. It's so exciting to see how eager they are to start.

Sunday Evening Services Schedule

August 4—No Evening Service

August 11—Corporate Prayer

August 18—No Evening Service

August 25—Corporate Prayer



Financial Update 2024

Budget needed weekly: \$ 2836.35



Contact Mark Wildenberg 920-378-3380 with questions.

Women's Prayer
Wednesdays at 9:30am

Women's Bible Study
Thursdays at 1:00pm
Starting in September

Men's & Women's
Bible Study
Saturdays at 8am
Starting in September

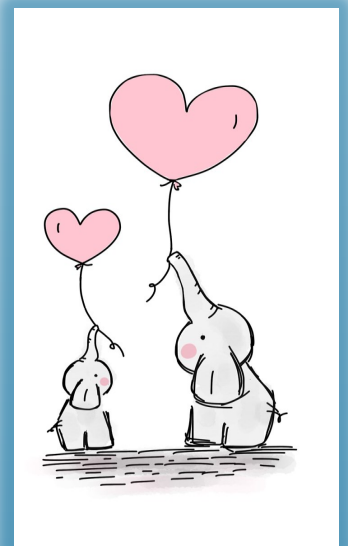


August 4
Ryan Smith

August 11
Pat Groff

August 18
Christopher Smith

August 25
Ray Rudzinski



Please contact the
Church Office at 920
-734-6162 or Carol
Smith at (920) 475-
8727 to volunteer
for Nursery
Ministry.

Connect
WITH OUR
CHURCH FAMILY

Women's Ministry

The women of FRBC had a wonderful time on May 18 as we gathered to paint sun catcher wind chimes and to “Mod Podge” tile coasters. We’ve taken a break from activities so far this summer, but are gearing up to continue “Crafting with a Purpose” on August 10.

We will meet in the fellowship hall at 10 o’clock to continue these projects. If we do not get all the crafting done at this August meeting, one more craft day will be held October 12.

The activities are easy and fun, the fellowship is great, and the lovely items will bless the residents of Brewster Village and Care Partners at Christmastime. Please put August 10 at 10 o’clock on your calendar and plan to join us for “Crafting with a Purpose.”

Mission News

Possible visits

The Hursts are working on their visitation schedule, and the Mashburns will visit us when they are in the states this fall. We look forward to these opportunities to hear first-hand of what God is doing through them in their parts of the world.

The Mission Board’s next meeting is August 26. Thank you for your prayers as we continue to search out how to bless our missionaries and to honor our LORD.



Single Women's Ministry

The **Single Women's Ministry** will be meeting on August 4th, at Perkins Restaurant at 2:30 pm.

August 21st at 5:30 pm Single Women's Ministry Meeting at Lois Peeters 's house: 607 Kramer St. Kimberly

Any questions please contact Lois Peeters at 920-419-4921

Fox River Baptist Church

2700 East Henry Street
Appleton, WI 54915

Phone: 920-734-6162

E-mail: office@foxriverbaptist.com

Website: foxriverbaptist.com

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday
& Thursday - 12:00 pm to 4:00 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

!

August

Packaged Side Dishes



Help us reach our goal of 1,000 Packages!

August's Birthdays

- 05** Doris Schimke
- 09** Ray Rudzinski
- 07** Bruce Sowders
- 10** Lydia Probst
- 10** Kyle Tubbs
- 11** Becky Godfrey
- 21** Deb Mashburn
- 26** Christy Wynkoop
- 29** Carl Zwerg
- 31** Diane Van Loo

August Anniversaries

- 05** Carol and Scott Smith
- 06** Tim Godfrey's Church Anniversary
- 12** Luke and Becca Rickert
- 17** Ray and Ellen Rudzinski
- 31** Becky and Tim Godfrey



Intentional Discipleship

For the month of August, we will not be having any Men or Ladies Bible Studies as they will be taking a break for the summer. Also, we will be only having Sunday School a couple of times this month, either when we host a missionary or when the Elders decide to do a Puritan Biography. Please keep an eye on the bulletin for these special events. Finally, we will be having only two Sunday Evening services in August on the 11th and the 25th for prayer.

In His Name & For His Glory,

Pastor Tim

Pastor Tim Godfrey

pastortim@foxriverbaptist.com

(920) 277-1527

Young at Heart

Our ministry at Care Partners in Fox Crossing will continue on Thursday August 1st at 10:30 am. Feel free to join us as we share a worship service with the residents.

Questions please call Lynn Abitz 920-788-9482

