

October 2020



 Omega Baptist Church

A circle of believers with Christ at the center.

# BEACON

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

## Attacks and Affirmations of Personhood

Every human being is made with great dignity in the image and likeness of God himself. That fact has a wide variety of implications and applications that are relevant to our situation today. That fact is under attack from many angles in our day. Those who reject the revelation that humans are made in the likeness of God, do things that deny the value and dignity of human life.

Daniel Becker in the preface of his book *Personhood* says, “In the 21st century, we face an increasing array of issues that directly violate human life and human dignity...Our culture’s worldview has changed from post-Christian to increasingly anti-Christian...”

Some attacks on personhood, the value and dignity of human life, are obvious like murder. Some are a little harder to recognize, camouflaged by nice sounding lies. We will outline some of the major ones in our day so that we can first of all reject those attacks on personhood in our own hearts and minds. Secondly then, we can be a positive influence for personhood in our spheres of influence.

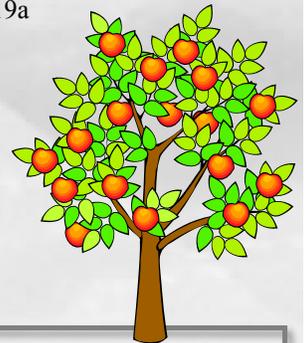
In addition to exposing ways that human life is devalued, we have many opportunities to affirm personhood through a wide variety of actions. In fact, so many of those are possible that I want to take two talks to present them, rather than trying to cover them all in one talk and not doing them justice.

These messages are some of the most important ones I have ever prepared and, Lord willing, get to deliver. Please be in prayer!

In His Grace,  
Pastor Rodney

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe.”

Ephesians 1:17-19a



### OCTOBER SERMON SCHEDULE

- 4 “Attacks on Personhood, Part 2”
- 11 “Affirmations of Personhood, Part 1”
- 18 Guest Speaker
- 25 “Affirmations of Personhood, Part 2”



# YOUTH MINISTRY



So I was thinking...

about social media and the statement "the Lord your God." They don't really go together...or do they? I subscribe to a newsletter called, *The Cultural Translator*. I like it because it helps keep me informed about what is happening in the world of teenagers without having to experience some of it. For example, I use the newsletter to stay current on pop culture items like TikToK, a popular video sharing app that many teens use daily. This newsletter helps me know what is trending, or happening, without having to actually download this particular app and spend time using it. It also tells me what the popular songs, movies, actors, books, and topics are so I can stay informed without having to "be in" the culture.

This week, *The Cultural Translator* talked about a documentary on Netflix called, "The Social Dilemma." I do not have a Netflix account, so I have not watched it. However, I was intrigued by the information presented so I looked up the trailer on YouTube. If you use any type of social media, Google a topic, or search for something on Amazon, I'm sure you have noticed that ads and posts regarding the information you have searched start appearing in your Google, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, YouTube, and so on, that match or relate to what you have either searched, shared or viewed. This is not an accident. That is how social media works. It tracks everything you do and connects you to more of what you are looking for or interested in. This can be helpful, but this documentary is trying to show that it has also created a big problem. If you never search for anything outside of your interests or never watch a video that has a different opinion than yours or you only watch what comes up in your Facebook feed, you are only getting one side of the story. Your side. The side you are already on. The problem occurs because our social media (including video sharing apps like Netflix and search engines like Google) only shows us what we already think to be truth, thereby confirming our biases on any number of things. Huh...no wonder our teens are so depressed, and our young adults are so polarized on issues, and our older folks believe everything they read on Facebook. (Please read that as an over generalized statement to make a point.)

So why am I thinking about this and what does it have to do with God? Well, lately I have had a stint of vertigo. It's been a little frustrating and I haven't been able to read or look at a screen for more than a few minutes. (Writing this will be the longest I've been on a computer in two weeks.) For this reason, I have been listening to the bible. I'm currently using a reading plan on my You Version bible app and lucky for me it reads out loud. The plan I'm using has everything spaced out so that in one year you will have read through the bible twice. Each day has a mix of old testament and new testament chapters. I've been listening to Deuteronomy this week and just finished chapter 12. The words "the Lord your God" stuck out to me. I got distracted wondering how many times it was said so I had to start over. I'm not sure why it stood out to me, most likely the way Max McLean enunciates it, but I decided to look it up. The total number of verses that have "the Lord Your God" is 1,797 in the NIV version on my app. Of those times, 1,586 are in the Old Testament and 211 are in the New. There are 299, the most by the way, in Deuteronomy alone and this doesn't count the number of times it's recorded, just the number of verses it appears in. There are some verses in Deuteronomy that say it multiple times. Of course, I had to ponder this a little more and wonder why God would want them to read or say, "the Lord your God" so many times? For some reason it made me think of what this social media documentary is trying to say. Whatever we surround ourselves with is what we believe. The more you see it the more you believe it. In God's wisdom, He was trying to teach a nation that He was IT. The Old Testament tells us the story of God trying to take a group of people out of the present culture and change them into His people. A special nation who would look, act, and BE different. He (God) had to change their thinking. He had to inundate them with the idea that He is the LORD their GOD because they had other gods from other cultures to distract them. He knew they needed to hear it over and over.

I guess it shouldn't surprise me that the geniuses behind social media algorithms would take what works and use it. (Repeat, Repeat, Repeat) There is, after all, nothing new under the sun.

...until next time, Rebecca Anderson, OBC Youth Director

*What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.*  
- Ecclesiastes 1:9

## October OBC Meetings & Ministries

### WORSHIP TEAM

4	Sam & Aimee
11	Isaacsons
18	Eric
25	Youth Group

### ORGANIST

Karen
Dolly
Karen
Ellen

AUDIO TECH - Matt Swan  
VISUAL TECH - Sam Blomberg



### MEETINGS

Missions Committee	Thursday, 1st	7:00 p.m.
CE Board	Tuesday, 6th	7:00 p.m.
Trustee Board	Monday, 12th	7:00 p.m.
Deacon Board	Monday, 26th	7:00 p.m.

## Ladies' Bible Studies

**Mondays, 9:00 a.m. "Armor of God"**  
A study by Priscilla Shirer that will bring to light the war around you and challenge you to suit up, stand firm, and secure the victory in your life

**Mondays, 7:00 p.m. "Be Obedient"**  
A Warren Wierzbek study of Genesis 12-25

Entrusted with the Gospel  
Empowered by the Holy Spirit  
Engaged with the Community  
**Enduring in Hardship**

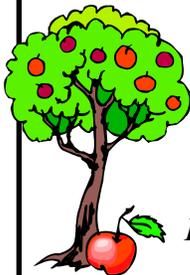
"My prayer is that ... God will fan into flame your heart for your community and, through the wisdom of the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit, you will strive to see your region transformed by the power of the gospel."  
~Scott Ridout, Converge (our church conference) President

*Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.*

2 Corinthians 9:10

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

Galatians 6:9



*Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.*

James 3:18

*I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.*



*This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples.*

~ Jesus, in John 15:5 & 8

## October Birthdays

- 3 Aidan Anderson, Lawson Carlson, Gabe Lind
- 4 Cody Blomberg
- 5 Layne Blomberg, Amy Espinoza
- 6 Joelle Scheithauer, Julia Pearson, Pat Ulrich
- 7 Pat Grom, Elisabeth Karlik
- 8 Sally Fawley, Hunter Swan, Missy Altschwager
- 10 James Byrd, Karl Lind
- 11 Bruce Johnson, Leila Heikkinen
- 14 Madelyn Blomberg, Samuel Blomberg
- 15 Darrell Freiboth, Shirley Hueckman, Rachel Donahoe
- 16 Marcia VanCamp
- 18 LuAnn Winter
- 19 Micah Blomberg
- 20 Jake Anderson, Steve Blomberg
- 21 Arnie Blomberg, Nicole Schaer, Ryan Reissner
- 22 Seth Hueckman
- 23 Victor Blomberg
- 24 Jodi McIlhany
- 26 Mami Belan, Kaelyn Isaacson
- 27 Shirley Root, Hazel Nelson, Tyler Lind
- 28 Emily Daniels
- 29 Jeff Jast, Coralie Recob
- 31 Marlene Blomberg, Brian Kraegenbrink

**Happy Birthday!**



**October 11, 9:00 a.m.**

**Sunday School Special Guest Speaker**

## **The Gospel in India**

Titus Mathews from Gideons International will be giving a presentation during the adult Sunday School class time regarding what is happening in India through the distribution of God's Word.

Titus, who was originally from India, will also be sharing about the persecuted church in India due to the radical Hindu Government, which is facing our church plant, Pastor Ravi, in India.

This will be a great time to find out what is happening in India and there will be a time to ask questions on life situations in India.

All are welcome to come.

Please contact us if:

- You or someone in your family (on our mailing list) has an address change
  - You no longer want to be on our Beacon mailing list
  - You would rather receive your Beacon by email
- Email: [info@ogemabaptistchurch.org](mailto:info@ogemabaptistchurch.org) Thank You!

# OGEMA BAPTIST CHURCH

P.O. BOX 556, OGEMA, WI 54459 715-767-5157 [www.ogemabaptistchurch.org](http://www.ogemabaptistchurch.org)

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
OGEMA, WI  
54459  
PERMIT NO. 5



*"The only thing that counts is faith  
expressing itself through love.  
So I say, live by the Spirit ...  
The fruit of the Spirit is  
love, joy, peace, patience,  
kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness, gentleness  
and self-control.  
Since we live by the Spirit,  
let us keep in step with the Spirit."  
Galatians 5:6b, 16a, 22-23a, 25*

**Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday Worship Service - 10:15 a.m.**  
or online at [www.ogemabaptistchurch.org](http://www.ogemabaptistchurch.org)



**Wednesday Evening Programs:**  
**6:30-7:30 p.m. Kingdom Quest and Spot 68**  
**7:00-8:00 p.m. Ground Zero and Adult Prayer Mt.**

## Missionary Spotlight

*Gary & Marie Harrison*

*Pinnacle Ministries, Mosinee, WI*



*"Healthy Pastors.  
Healthy Leaders.  
Leading Healthy &  
Effective Churches."*

Gary & Marie Harrison work with Pinnacle Ministries, based out of central WI, where Gary is the President, as well as one of the Retool Kit authors/trainers/coaches. In that capacity he has worked with pastors and churches throughout the country, as well as in the Philippines and Japan. Marie is the director of Business Operations.

"The mission of Pinnacle Ministries is to be a catalyst in the expansion of God's kingdom by helping churches take the next strategic steps to fulfill Christ's mission. Since its inception, Pinnacle is about helping ensure that the 'system' of the church works. We're committed to our passion of, 'Healthy Pastors, Healthy Leaders, Leading Healthy Churches' and desire to see a movement of community-focused churches that obediently reproduce disciples, leaders and congregations."

Written in 2006, the RetoolKit "is still being used today in some form in Japan, the Philippines, Mexico, Germany, Nepal and several districts of Converge. ... We have also been involved in pastoral care for 25 years, helping pastors. ... Because we understand that the church is a system encompassing pastors, leaders and the church proper, we have worked to help churches strengthen these systems. We've helped them develop a Biblical culture, not an American culture or Japanese culture or Filipino culture. ... We understand that God doesn't want to make us better people, He wants us to be different people: He wants to transform us into the likeness of His Son."

"Thanks for being a part of this journey! Like so many today, many of our plans have been disrupted. We want to emerge from this Empowered. Thanks for your support—it's even more important as we plan for a busy fall season!"

To learn more about the ministry of Pinnacle, visit them online at [www.pinmin.org](http://www.pinmin.org).  
Information and quotations taken from several *Pinnacle Ministries* newsletters.