

# FBF Newsletter

February 2011



Helping people find and follow Christ

## Quick Notes:

- > Make powering the ministry through prayer part of your church involvement. Monthly prayer guides are available the first Sunday of every month.
- > Come together for a time of prayer for ministry-related and personal requests on the first Thursday of every month.

## From Pastor Chris:

### Five Myths about Love

February is kind of a love-themed month, although it still seems too early and cold for a young man's thoughts to turn to love. Shouldn't Valentine's Day be in spring instead of in the middle of winter?

It's not too early, however, to identify some of the misconceptions about love that are afloat in the world - and in the church. Here are five:

**Myth #1: Love means never having to say you're sorry.** At least that's what Ryan O'Neal and Ali McGraw said in *Love Story* (1970), maybe the soapiest, sappiest tearjerker of a movie ever produced. In reality, every love relationship involves at least two sinners, so the "sorry" word comes in mighty handy. Anyone who really believes Myth #1 will soon believe that he or she has known no relationship that really qualifies as true "love," and that's too bad because it probably isn't true.

**Myth #2: If it's love it can't be wrong.** That's pretty much what George Strait sang in *One Night at a Time* (2004). Funny that a guy named Strait would proclaim

one of the central arguments for gay marriage. The truth is that love can be real and real wrong at the same time.

In our fallenness, our love can be misdirected in all kinds of ways. "Do not love the world or the things in the world," the Bible says (1 John 2:15). Our problem with sin has very much to do with our affections.

**Myth #3: You can't love others until you love yourself.** Even many Christians believe this one, and find support in the biblical commands to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:38; Galatians 5:14). The problem is not only that the passages assume self-regard without commending it, let alone commanding it, but also that they simply do not teach a cause-and-effect relationship between self-love and loving others. In the end times, the Bible says, men will be "lovers of self" (2 Timothy 3:2). It's not a statement of emotional



health, and it's not a compliment.

**Myth #4: God hates the sin, but loves the sinner.**

This is a tough one because it seems so right, and it's a helpful slogan that helps us love people whose sin has done much to render them unlovable. But it also proposes a separation - sin from sinner - that is impossible apart from the gospel. Proverbs 6:16-19 says that God hates "haughty eyes, a lying tongue, . . . hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, [and] feet that run to evil." Good luck imagining how God could hate your eyes, tongue, hands, heart, and feet, but not you. Psalm 11:5 says it plain—God "hates the wicked and the

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See Five Love Myths*

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**Upcoming Events**

Several Women’s Ministry events are planned for the coming months. On Saturday, February 12, the women will sponsor a Game & Snack night for everyone at the church. A six-week study for women will begin on Tuesday, March 1. The study will use the book, “Becoming More Than a Good Bible Study Girl,” and will be conducted at Faith Bible Fellowship on Tuesday evenings from 6:30–8:00 p.m.

A discipleship group for men will also be started in March—more about that when we settle on the curriculum and other details. There will be a men’s service day on Saturday, March 12.

Paul Hopping is looking for singers for special music during our worship services on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Resurrection Sunday. Rehearsals will begin Sunday, February 6 from 2:30–4 p.m.

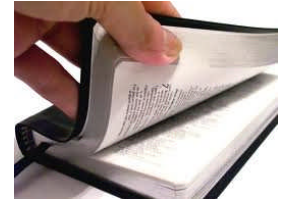
Ed Jaeger’s Sunday School class on the subject of worship has been terrific. If you’re out of the Sunday School habit, you’re missing something at FBF on Sunday mornings.

Some have asked about Pastor Chris’ preaching schedule for Romans so they can read and study the passages beforehand. Here it is:

- 2/6, Adam, Jesus, and You (Romans 5:1-21)
- 2/13, Wanted: Dead AND

Alive (Romans 6:1-23)

- 2/20, Which Dog in the Fight Is Yours? (Romans 7:1-25)
- 2/27, Get Your Mind Right (Romans 8:1-39)
- 3/6, The Problem of Unbelief and Sovereignty
- 3/13, The Right Response to Grace (Romans 12:1-21)
- 3/20, Government and God (Romans 13:1-14))
- 3/27, Legalism Hates Liberty, but Faith Loves People (Romans 14:1-15:12)
- 4/3, Decision-Making and the Will of God (Romans 15:13-33)
- 4/10, God Remembers the Forgotten (Romans 16:1-27)



A developing disciple of Jesus Christ is growing in the knowledge of the Scriptures and applying it in daily life. See the back page of this newsletter for the three other characteristics of growing Christ-followers.

Bottles for Babies is a fund-raising campaign that supports the ministry of Choices Resource Center in Oak Ridge. Baby bottles for collecting spare change are available at FBF. Bottles are due back Sunday, February 27.

**“Let us not love with word or talk but in deed and in truth.**

**Five Love Myths (continued from Page One)**

one who loves violence" (there's that loving the wrong thing again). The worst part is that we sometimes unintentionally assure sinners of God's love so much that they have difficulty seeing why they should be moved by a sense of his righteous wrath upon sin and the judgment that awaits sinners.

**Myth #5: Love is a decision, not an emotion.** It's true that

love is not an empty sentimentalism that never seems to find the time or the will to actually do something. "Let us not love with word or talk but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18). But it's also true that we can DO lots of things that appear loving, but do not flow from a heart that deeply desires another's benefit (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). Does recognizing love

as a matter of affection as well as action make it harder to obey all of the biblical commands to love (God, other believers, those without Christ, good)? It sure does, because our affections are not immediately subject to our will. We need God's help to change our affections. So what else is new? God help us all.

