



Forest Home Church

Forest Home Church
1751 Old Natchez Trace
Franklin, TN 37069

www.ForestHomeChurch.org

August 28th, 2011

"Sharing, Loving & Exploring Life in Christ"

Send announcements, praises, and prayer requests to: newsletter@foresthomechurch.org

I recently heard counselor Randy Carlson of Intentional Living talking about marriage. He raised a provocative question. What were the top ten reasons NOT to get married? The answers were revealing and convicting, even for married folks. Here they are:

10 Reasons Not to Get Married

1. You are unwilling to put the needs of another person above your own.
2. You are easily offended, carry grudges and are unwilling to forgive.
3. You are an abusive person (Mentally, emotionally and physically).
4. You are unwilling to commit.
5. You have an unresolved addiction problem.
6. Your career is the most important thing in your life.
7. You do not share the same beliefs, values, life priorities or vision.
8. You are unwilling to be an active partner sexually with your spouse.
9. You are unwilling to agree on an approach for handling finances, children and life decisions.
10. You expect your spouse to change after you get married.



Is what you want who you are?

Anthropologist and Christian Jennell Williams Paris has researched how people define who they are. Her latest book is entitled: *The End of Sexual Identity: Why Sex is Too Important to Define Who We Are* (IVP). She teaches at Messiah College in PA. Here are a few quotes:

Sexual identity has become an idol in both the culture at large and in the Christian subculture. And yet concepts like "gay" or "straight" are relatively recent developments in human history. We let ourselves be defined by socially constructed notions of sexual identity and sexual orientation—even though these may not be the only or best ways to think about sexuality.

Sexual identity is a Western, nineteenth-century formulation of what it means to be human. It's grounded in a belief that the direction of one's sexual desire is identity-constituting, earning each individual a label . . . and social role.

Reproduction, family and religion have become optional components of sex ... and sexuality has taken on new meaning as an essential force that exists not between persons but within each individual, one that is expected to provide personal identity and happiness.

God created sexuality. People created sexual identity.

No time to read—you can catch Professor Mrs. Paris (she is a mother of three) interviewed about her new book in itunes free and at:

<http://cogitocredo.com/2011/05/vox-vocis-9-jenell-williams-paris-pt-1/>



Conference of Interest:
September 30 – October 1 at
the Chattanooga Convention
Center: "Reading Genesis 1-2:
An Evangelical Conversation"
from the Bryan Institute for
Critical Thought and Practice

- 2011 Calendar**
- EACH MON+THURS 5:30-5:50PM@the church Intercessory prayer for anyone
 - EACH WED - 4:45 pm @ the church, Women's Bible Study
 - EACH LAST WED NIGHT OF THE MONTH - "Branded" for the youth (Grades 5th-12th) 6-7:30pm @ church

Men's Group
Beginning:
September
6:30am each
Tuesday
morning @
the church



Take Up Your Cross (the real one)

Martin Luther used to teach well: Jesus is both the Cross-Bearer and the Cross-Bestower!!! What is the cross He bestows on His disciples, who must daily take up the cross and follow Him? Sometimes it is easier to show what the cross we must bear is not. That is, sometimes we think we are bearing our crosses for Jesus, but are busy displacing the real crosses He bestows. I quote the insights of Gene Edwards:

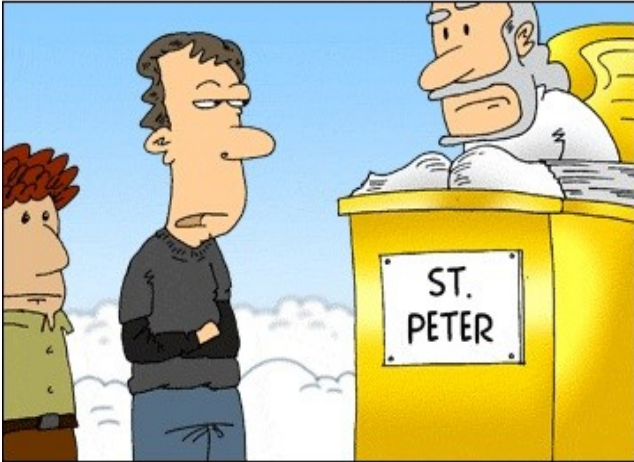
"Let's look at yet another Christian, one who thinks he is bearing his cross so beautifully. His cross, in his eyes at least, is a bickering, nagging wife. One day he is finally confronted with the truth. "Brother, you are *not* bearing the cross! You are a secretive, noncommunicating man who keeps his whole personality hidden away from view. Your wife is not a nagger, she is being driven stark-raving mad by the fact that you have not let her know who you are. . . . You haven't even *started* knowing the cross.

For another brother, his day is up when he realizes that his very refined ability to *not* confront someone (but rather, to bear the cross) is really an act of cowardice. To confront would be his *real* cross.

Conversely there is the brother who is very proud of the fact that he is frank and outspoken and quick to get things into the light. Somewhere, someday he will be faced with the almost opposite reality. He is going to have to face up to the fact that there is a cruelty in him, that he is a callous, compassionless man, and that for him to *speak* is to refuse the cross. For him to be silent and accept injustices (as he sees it) would almost kill him. If he manages . . . then the Lord has won a victory."

Take up your cross indeed. But put down any false ones to make room. LH

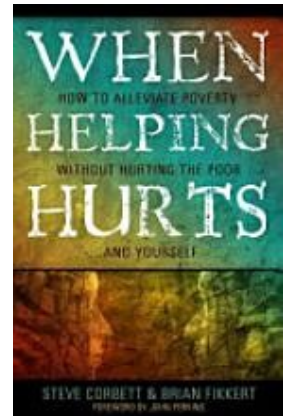
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WHATEVER, YOU KNOW THAT I STILL DON'T BELIEVE ANY OF THIS

What the Elders are Reading

The elders read together quite a few articles and books over time. One of the most engaging and provocative of late is the book entitled: *When Helping Hurts: Alleviating Poverty Without Hurting the Poor. . .and Ourselves* (Moody, 2009). They have found that the book description is accurate: "Churches and individual Christians typically have faulty assumptions about the causes of poverty, resulting in the use of strategies that do considerable harm to poor people and themselves. *When Helping Hurts* provides foundational concepts, clearly articulated general principles and relevant applications. The result is an effective and holistic ministry to the poor, not a truncated gospel. A situation is assessed for whether relief, rehabilitation, or development is the best response to a situation." LH



**Sukkot
Celebration
at FH
October 14**

DATE	NURSERY (Infants-2 yrs old) During sermon only	LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION	WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER
Aug 28	Sam Lamborn	Aug Garner	Aug 31 Pat/Karen
Sept 4	Linda Boyd	Sept L. McAlister	Sept 7 Pizza
Sept 11	Leah Hickerson	Oct Austin	Sept 14 Sarah/Kathleen
Sept 18	Kacy Pantall	Nov VanderLinden	Sept 21 Liz/Dawn
Sept 25	Kathleen Stewart		Sept 28 Linda/Lois
Oct 2	Anita Christy		Oct 5 Lisa/Wendy
Oct 9	Ocie Garner	(Sub-Grimensteins) See Jim Grim with questions.	Oct 12 Ocie/Shannon