



## BIO: PASTOR MIKE SLOFSTRA

### *The Gospel has Captured my Heart!*

God is away writing His story in us. Here is an account of some of His more recent efforts in my life. You see, early on, I'd concluded Christianity was a sort of moral endeavor, and I was seeking the approval of others through my performance. It was not until my late twenties that I realized how exhausting this caricature was. Jesus had offered rest, and I had found exhaustion.

So, after years of frustration and exhausted collapses in my faith, He showed me the Gospel and its sufficiency for daily living. I was delighted! My worth had been hanging in the balance of every next performance. Every meeting, leadership opportunity, relationship, and moral failing told me who I was.

After years of church attendance, university and seminary training, and countless hours of Bible study in preparation for preaching many sermons, I experienced the Gospel to be most powerful in re-ordering my disordered loves. I came to the end of myself, and so the balm of the Gospel dropped in my soul.

Rehearsing gospel truth is how I came to enjoy God's love and maintain fresh contact with His provision for daily living.

I began to experience the unconditional approval of Jesus when I looked upon the cross. Those seeds started changing how I inwardly and outwardly lived. Then, through a battle with cancer, the adoption of our daughter, and the hardship of church leadership, He has drawn me into a sort of rest that comes from dependence on him for my identity rather than myself.

I go back. I still console my self-worth by seeking the approval of others and any number of other trappings. However, unlike before, I now have eyes to see how it sets me in bondage and damages my relationships. The spirit is alive within me — teaching me! What's more, I know that even when I falter, when I've chosen the approval of the created over the assuring love of the creator, he still chooses me — always! I am loved, so I am freed for life with Him for the world.

### ***Ministry Experiences:***

Over the past 15 years, I've served in the same church, moving from Youth Pastor to Associate Pastor and then Interim Senior Pastor. During that blessed time, I enjoyed serving in discipleship, preaching & teaching, pastoral care, leadership, and missions. Pastoring as a shepherd to the people is my passion, and I have found the best way to do this is by helping others see the glories of the Gospel. Nothing brings rest like the Gospel! Previous to vocational ministry, I served as a science, PE, and art teacher.

### ***Family:***

My wife Bethany and I have been married for 21 years and have five children. Joshua (18), Caleb (16), Micah (13) Lukas (11) and Ellie (5). Bethany and I enjoy being active together, raising our children up in the good news of the Gospel, and partnering in marriage and family based ministry.

### ***Education:***

Master in Divinity

*Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI  
Ordained as Minister of the Word (CRC)*

Master of Arts in Leadership

*Trinity Western University, Langley, B.C. Canada*

Bachelor of Education

*University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. Canada*

Bachelor of Science Human Kinetics

*Trinity Western University, Langley, B.C. Canada*