



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 it's 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 hour 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