

Covenant United Reformed Church - Fresno, California

Our vision for Covenant United Reformed Church:

"The faith once and for all delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3)

To understand this faith, to internalize it, and to work it out into our daily activity, so that we can pass it down to our children, outweighs every other interest - including the numerical success of the church.

<p>Pastor: Reverend Paul Lindemulder, M-Div Mailing Address: 1803 W. Arden Dr. Fresno, CA 93703 Phone: (559)298-2760 Elders: Case Bos, Don Lange Deacons: Eric Anderson, Scott Jacobson E-mail: pastor@fresnourc.org</p>	<p>Services: Location: Mountain View Elementary School 2002 E. Alluvial Avenue (corner of Alluvial and Maple) Times: Sunday Morning 9:30 A.M. Sunday Afternoon 5:00 P.M.</p>
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Meet the Pastor !



How well do you know Pastor Paul Lindemulder? Let's start with some trivia questions. Who was Felix? What does Pastor Paul eat after the Sunday evening service? Which theologians have been most influential to him in his studies? What is Paul's favorite hobby? Read on to find out the answers to these burning questions.

Pastor Paul Lindemulder was born in Wayne, New Jersey. He has three older brothers in his family. Since then he has gained three nephews and one niece .

As a child Paul enjoyed mountain biking in the Adirondacks on old logging trails and sailing in upper lake Saranac. Paul also raised fish! He had a fish tank which was home to guppies and a type of fish known as an Oscar that ate guppies. The Oscar fish was named Felix. According to Paul, Felix was a really cool 11 inch long member of the family. He went through obedience training, Unbeknownst to Paul, while he was

away at college, his brothers taught Felix to jump out of the water for food.

Heidi, Paul's wife, remembers Felix only too well. On her very first visit to meet 'the clan', Paul decided to show her how domesticated this fish was. When Paul reached down to give Felix food, the fish leaped up, grabbed the food from Paul's hand and splashed water all over the floor. Paul thought the fish was exceedingly talented. However, Heidi and Felix did not hit it off very well. Felix stayed in New Jersey and no other Oscars have taken up residence in the Lindemulder household.

As an adult Paul enjoys riding his motorcycle and reading about that 'dream' motorcycle.

Paul obtained his BA in history at Dordt College and his Masters of Divinity at Westminster West Theological

Seminary. Paul credits his pastor, Leroy Christoffles, and his training at Westminster under Kline and Strimple for confirming his upbringing in Reformed theology.



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MORE ABOUT THE PASTOR (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

When asked what issues most threaten the church today, Paul answered divergent views on justification and sanctification. Some of the theologians who have had the most influence on Paul include Calvin, Ursinus, Turretin, Vos, Ridderbos, Murray, Hodge, Witsius, and Van Til. The list of influential theologians who are still living include Kline, Gaffin, and Strimple.

After a long week of studying, teaching, and preaching Paul enjoys a Sunday night ritual, the barbecue. He religiously cooks a hamburger or chicken after the evening service.

When asked how the church can pray for him, Paul answered, "The church should always pray that the minister preach the gospel in its full glory without taking anything away from Christ." He

continues, "The church should pray that the minister remain orthodox and that the elders would rule wisely.". Paul's primary purpose is to minister the word and sacrament because these are the means that Christ uses to grow His church in number and in faith.

BOOK REVIEW: THE GOSPEL MYSTERY OF SANCTIFICATION BY WALTER MARSHALL



If you have ever struggled with the theological balance between obedience to the law (sanctification) and freedom in Christ, [The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification](#) by Walter Marshall is the book for you!

This 17th century work is a classic expression of a Reformed theology of holiness. Marshall addresses the two extremes regarding the issue of our sanctification, Antinomianism (against the law) and Neo-Nomianism (new law).

Marshall argues that sanctification is brought about by the Spirit's work of grace in

the individual who hears the Gospel. Thus the graces of repentance and mortification are a result of faith in Christ. The believer's union with Christ results in obedience to the law of Christ. The believer is not 'against the law'.

Marshall also reminds the reader to "be sure to seek Holiness of Heart and Life only in its due order, where God has placed it, *after* union with Christ..." Neo-Nomianism argues that both obedience in faith along with Christ's righteousness are the grounds for our justification. Marshall argues that our faith union with Christ is the source and

starting point for obedience and therefore cannot be a ground for justification.

How then does sanctification proceed in the believer? Marshall reminds us of God's ordained means for continuing in the grace of Christ: "regular use of the Word, sacraments, and prayer are the way of holiness in this life and eternal happiness in the life to come.

"Obedience which does not spring from faith is hypocrisy, and true faith produces obedience to the law of Christ. Hence, true obedience begins in faith, proceeds by faith, and perseveres by faith in Christ" [The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification](#) by Walter Marshall