

REFLECTIONS

C3Women—Christ-Centered, Connected, Called

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In His Fullness

Reflections on the Knox spring brunch by Natalie d'Aubermont Thompson



I recently attended the Knox Spring Brunch and had the privilege of hearing Connally Gilliam speak on being 'Re-imagined in Christ' with a focus on the beauty of obedience. For those of you who may not know me, I'm a member of Knox, have attended for about 7 years, wife to David, and mother of three (ages 4, 7 and 9). I work part time from home as a consultant, love to read, travel and spend time with family and friends. Because I clearly have extra time on my hands, I also run a literary initiative, Living by the Page, and recently joined the board of the Children's Literacy Network. When I reflect on how I would describe myself to others who may not know me, adjectives such as outgoing and curious come to mind. I honestly don't think that disobedient would make the cut. And yet, Gilliam did a wonderful job in her talk reminding us that disobedience is an inherent part of our human nature and will manifest itself in a variety of ways. In light of this, how can we reframe obedience? How can we look at it as an invitation to sit under the feet of Jesus?

*"In our cultural climate it's not always
attractive to be seen as the obedient one."*

- RECAP -



C3Women's Spring Brunch

The Beauty of Obedience

Surrounded by lovely spring decorations, our hostesses warmly welcomed around 150 girls and women to our 2019 Spring Brunch on Saturday, April 6th. It was a morning filled with beauty, rich fellowship and deep encouragement.

Click [here](#) to read about the details and see more pictures.

Be encouraged & challenged by Connally Gilliam's meditation,
[The Beauty of Obedience](#)

Be blessed by Ilene Lynn's [children's message](#)
about living joyfully as children of the King.

Enjoy listening to Amy Smith's lovely vocals on
[My Worth Is Not in What I Own](#)

- COMING UP -

C3W Spring Ladies Night Out

Eisenhower opposite Briarwood Mall
May 30 - 6:30pm

Enjoy an evening of great food and fellowship getting to know your Knox sisters at the Olive Garden on Eisenhower across from Briarwood Mall! This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce your friends to other Knox women and our C3W ministry! Order off the menu, pay for yourself. Dinner prices begin at just under \$10 for soup & salad, average pasta dish around \$15.



RSVP by May 28 to reserve your spot.

[Click to RSVP](#)

Summer Reading & Study Opportunities!



BIBLE STUDIES

Though our C3W Knox weekly Bible studies will be taking a summer break, we want to encourage women to remain steeped in the Word this summer! Grab a group of friends or study on your own using one of these resources:

She Reads Truth

She Reads Truth

These biblically sound studies are a great way to delve into the Scriptures! **Bonus** - through the end of the day today, these study materials are 20% off using the code, SUMMERMAL.

Nancy Guthrie Bible Studies

Nancy Guthrie Bible Studies

These studies will help you see how Jesus is pictured on every page of the Old Testament in rich detail. See the old saying, "the new is in the old concealed, the old is in the new revealed" come to life!



GREAT BOOKS

We highly recommend the following three books for your summer reading list. They will help you consider God's call to pursue holiness as He re-images you in the likeness of Christ! Click on the titles to buy on Amazon.

[Revelations of a Single Woman: Loving the Life I Didn't Expect](#)
by Connally Gilliam

[Liturgy of the Ordinary](#)
by Tish Harrison Warren

[In His Image: 10 Ways God Calls Us to Reflect on His Character](#)
by Jen Wilkin

- MARK CALENDAR -

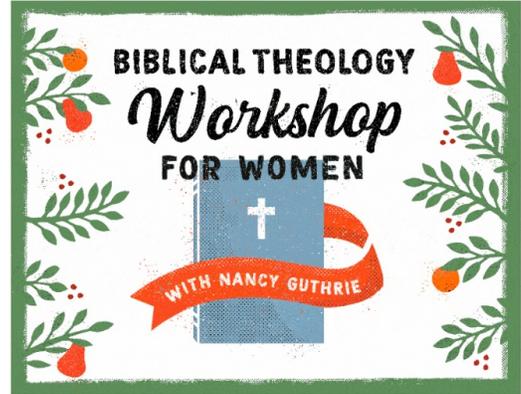
Biblical Theology Workshop

Taught by Nancy Guthrie
Saturday, November 2, 2019
Grand Rapids

*No matter how much you already know
—or don't know—about the Bible, if you*

are a woman who wants to know your Bible better, this workshop is for you!

Do you ever read the Bible and have a sense that there is a deeper meaning or significance to what you are reading that you can't quite figure out? Or do you sometimes wonder why some people have been able to draw things out of a passage in the Bible that you didn't see until they pointed it out? If so, join other Knox women planning to go to a Biblical Theology Workshop for Women in Grand Rapids this fall. The aim will be to increase our Bible skills so that rather than being bored by, or intimidated by the Bible, we'll become more intrigued by it, moved by it, more confident that we're grasping what it is communicating to us.



Over three sessions, we'll review the key events of the Bible's story and the major sections of the Bible. Bible teacher, Nancy Guthrie, will demonstrate telling the story of the Bible through the lens of one of its important themes. We'll work together on tracing a few themes through the various sections of the Bible. Then we'll look at the opening of each of the Gospels and discover how a growing understanding of major biblical themes adds to our understanding when we see those themes arise in specific passages of the Bible. These three sessions will be energetic, interactive, and fun!

Join other Knox Women for this Biblical Theology workshop presented by gifted Bible teacher, Nancy Guthrie!

For more info and to sign up for the workshop. (Be sure to chose the **November 2, Grand Rapids** option.)

[Workshop Info & Signup](#)

Sign up to let other Knox women know that you're going and that you'd like to carpool and spend Friday night in a local hotel.

[Knox Carpool Signup](#)

- FEATURE STORY -

In His Fullness (cont.)

- Natalie's reflection continued -

In our cultural climate it's not always attractive to be seen as the obedient one. I find that it, sadly, correlates with unimaginative and staid thinking. If I'm honest with myself, while I desire my children to be obedient (ahem, to me), there are times that I also wish for them to be the ones creatively coloring outside the lines and challenging authority (for the good, of course). But then I take a closer look at Scripture and am

"...obedience is the command with a tenderness of invitation, and it is beautiful because it is never walked alone, and it is done under the gaze of the One who sees us."

reminded that obedience isn't passive or mindless. There is energy that comes with obedience, an active, mindful decision making. As Gilliam encouraged us, "obedience is the command with a tenderness of invitation, and it is beautiful because it is never walked alone, and it is done under the gaze of the One who sees us."



When my daughter, Noelle, was born, I knew that this would likely be our last biological child. I was doing very well in my consulting business and had recently been introduced to a company that was privately held, but close to going public. I won't name them here, but let's just say that they are now a household name. They had asked me to submit a proposal for the next stage of their business and upon looking at the calendar I saw that the deadline correlated with the week of my daughter's birth. I was so torn. I had moved geographically with each of my other son's during their birth year (my oldest at 3 months and my middle at 6 months) and each time I lamented that, while there was grace in those moves, they were a distraction from enjoying that sweet infant season and I was so relieved that I wasn't going to be going through that emotional and logistical roller-coaster with my third and "last." However, I knew that taking on a contract of this size would be tantamount to that.

" And He was saying to them all, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.'"

Luke 9:23-24

It was a bittersweet realization that while there was a living human being growing inside of me, there was another part that was learning to die gracefully. But just like pruning a plant or a bush, the growth that emerges after this death is gloriously rich and full. Does that mean that every day has been rich and full since this decision? Of course not, but it *does* mean that I can rest in the obedience that came with that decision and the fullness of His grace. Gilliam mentioned that obedience is never a trapdoor with the Lord, we can be confident that it is never the end of a story. Usually, it is just the beginning. As we are reminded in Luke 9:23-24, "And He was saying to them all, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.'"



Yes, much was lost professionally and financially in that decision of obedience, of

sacrifice. But what was gained was clarity, a refocusing of my prior rather myopic vision of vocation. The Father was tenderly reshaping my vision of what a whole, full life looked like. One that didn't involve harsh compromises, but a tender bringing forth of other passions and interests that had lain dormant and were able to arise only by saying "no" to what would have been an obvious "yes" to many.

reimagined
IN CHRIST
a holy calling

