

Central Church

Loving the world, one person at a time...

A Free Will Baptist Church



February 28, 2011

[WHO WE ARE](#) [WHAT WE DO](#) [CALENDAR](#) [CENTRALOG](#) [CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?](#)

Sermon Series

We have finished our current series of messages titled, *Why Is God So*: We've tried to illustrate the truth about God's character on several issues that deal with accusations often leveled against God. We also spoke about the one characteristic of God's that is often misunderstood, or even denied, His love.

[*Why Is God So: Angry?*](#)

[*Why Is God So: Harsh?*](#)

[*Why Is God So: Hidden?*](#)

[*Why Is God So: Loving?*](#)

With this series completed we will be moving into a series of messages leading up to Easter.

Missions News

Mikayla Smith still needs a significant portion of her funds for her upcoming mission trip to Nicaragua. If you can help in this please let [Gary Breshears](#) know as soon as possible!

Missionaries always have needs. It seems like we're always asking people to support the work of missionaries. A good example is [Joel & Naomi McGill](#), who have a need (growing more urgent by the day) for a minivan to transport their family.

Pastor's Note

Last week I told you that I'd be giving you some more information about the revision coming to the New International Version of the Bible. I'd like to thank Edwin Bowden for compiling this information. Here it is:

1. The New International Version (published in 1978, with 930 minor revisions in 1984) was the first modern translation to gain wide acceptance among evangelical Christians. This bestselling translation

has become a widely used “standard” by conservative churches throughout the English speaking world. It is popular because of its balance of accuracy and readability.

2. In 1996, a British edition was produced called the NIVI (NIV Inclusive). Its treatment of gender language brought a huge negative reaction from conservative Christians. Dr. James Dobson convened a meeting of leading evangelicals in Colorado Springs with members of the NIV Committee on Bible Translation and representatives of Zondervan (the North American publisher). A set of guidelines for gender language for Bible translations was agreed to by those present on May 27, 1997 (revised September 9, 1997). Resolutions opposing gender-inclusive Bible translations were passed that summer by the Southern Baptist Convention and some other major denominations.

3. The copyright holder of the NIV, the International Bible Society (now known as Biblica) and Zondervan later withdrew from the agreement. In 2002, the Today's New International Version (TNIV) NT was published using gender-inclusive language. The complete TNIV was published in 2005. The TNIV was widely criticized by evangelical Christians. The president of Zondervan admitted that the TNIV “divided the evangelical community.” Assurances were made that the current NIV (1984) would remain in print as long as there was still demand for it.

4. In 2009, a complete revision of the NIV was announced. Translation work was completed in November 2010. It has been available for review online (Biblegateway.com) since then. Print editions will be available beginning March 2011.

5. Almost 40% of the verses have some changes from the current NIV (1984) text, but only about 8% change from the TNIV text. About 8% of the words are changed from the NIV (1984).

6. Analysis shows that the NIV 2011 is primarily a revision of the TNIV (which was rejected for its gender-inclusive language). Many improvements were made in this revision.

7. Zondervan announced that the revised edition of the NIV (2011) will replace both the current NIV (1984 edition) and the TNIV. The title of the revised edition (2011) will still be the NIV. The current edition NIV (1984) and the TNIV will no longer be available after current stock has sold out. The “standard” NIV non-inclusive language text will soon become unavailable. Customers may buy the NIV with the 2011 revisions without knowing they are not buying the same Bible text they previously used.

8. The Central Church family uses a variety of translations, but the NIV has been the most widely used for a number of years. It has been used as the text for messages and is in the pew Bibles.

9. The new NIV (2011), with its gender-inclusive language, cannot be recommended as a primary reading/study Bible. It is regrettable that confusion will be caused by the introduction of this major change in the “standard” NIV text without a title change. Check the copyright date on any NIV you purchase in the future.

10. **Note from Pastor Alan:** I have used the NIV for several years from the pulpit of Central Church. While the NIV is not my “favorite” version I used it to lessen the chance of confusion, as our pew Bibles were NIV. I have determined two main points from discussions regarding this issue. First, pew Bibles are nearly an afterthought since the advent of projectors. Pew Bibles were intended to be used by those who didn't bring a Bible with them to church...before projectors were utilized. Since Central uses a projector the version of the Bible used has little impact on what we have as pew Bibles. The second

issue is more compelling, in my opinion. If I continue to use the current (1984) NIV from the pulpit and a member or visitor happens to have the 2011 NIV in their possession, it will cause some confusion, as both are labeled NIV. As the Advisory Board has discussed this issue we have come to the conclusion that the use of the 2011 NIV at Central will be a matter of personal choice, but we will not recommend it, nor will it be used from the pulpit. I am strongly considering changing to the English Standard Version (ESV) as my primary Bible, and the Bible I use to preach from the pulpit.

Further information is available at these websites:

From the Committee on Bible Translation explaining the revisions:

<http://www.biblegateway.com/niv/Translators-Notes.pdf>

Evaluation by Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood:

<http://www.cbmw.org/Blog/Posts/CBMW-Responds-to-New-NIV2011>

Word changes of interest to CBMW:

http://www.slowley.com/niv2011_comparison/cbmw_words.html

Analysis of changes NIV 1984/NIV 2011/TNIV:

<http://www.biblewebapp.com/niv2011-changes/>

Top 250 Removed/Added words:

http://www.slowley.com/niv2011_comparison/most_added_removed_words.html

Review of the NIV 2011:

<http://sbcvoices.com/yesterday%E2%80%99s-niv-is-now-today%E2%80%99s-niv-a-transformation-of-a-translation-reflecting-today%E2%80%99s-culture/>

Compare any passage on Bible Gateway between the NIV 2011/NIV 1984/TNIV

<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans%2012:1-2&version=NIV;NIV1984;TNIV&multilayout=cols>

I look forward to seeing you in church soon!

Pastor Alan Kinder

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