

# The Ambitious Book Club

*A Book Club a Cut Above*



**BECAUSE ...** *You don't know that you don't know*

**BECAUSE ...** *You can't give what you don't have*

**BECAUSE ...** *What shapes your thinking, shapes your living*

**BECAUSE ...** *You are charged to contend for the truth*

**BECAUSE ...** *So much is riding on it*

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

(COLOSSIANS 1:9-14 ESV)

# *Kingdom-MindedMoms* **AMBITIOUS**

**2020-2021**

## **APPLICATION FORM**

### **1. Personal Data** (Please print clearly using a dark pen or type)

_____	_____
First Name	Last Name
_____	
Mailing Address (Residence)	
_____	_____
Home Phone	Cell Phone
_____	
E-Mail Address	
_____	
Husband's Name	
_____	_____
Child/Age	Child/Age
_____	_____
Child/Age	Child/Age
_____	_____
Child/Age	Child/Age
_____	_____
Child/Age	Child/Age
_____	_____
Child/Age	Child/Age

### **2. Church Information**

_____	_____
Name of your church	Denomination

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Street Address

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City/State

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Pastor's Name

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Pastor's Phone Number

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Are you a member? Why/why not?

Please describe your participation in your local church:

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**A WINDOW INTO YOU –**

**3. Please list your spiritual gifts:**

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**4. Other skills, talents & abilities:**

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**5. Hobbies/Interests:**

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**6. Other than the Bible, what books and/or films have influenced your life?**

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**7. Why do you want to join Kingdom-MindedMoms AMBITIOUS?**

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**8. Do you believe that God has called you to full-time ministry/missionary work?**

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**9. What do you believe is the calling God has placed in your life?**

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**10. What books are you reading at this time?**

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**11. What books have you read in the last year? (Include books on tape/CD)**

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**12. What are the most influential/important books that you've *ever* read? Why?**

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**13. How much time do you spend reading in an average week? \_\_\_\_\_**  
hours

**14. How many books do you own? (approximate) \_\_\_\_\_**

**15. Do you regularly borrow books from friends or the library? \_\_\_\_\_**

**16. How many books do you borrow from friends/library in an average year? \_\_\_\_\_**

**17. What sort of books do you generally read?**

_____	biography	_____	devotionals
_____	doctrine/theology	_____	inspirational
_____	motivational/self-help	_____	fiction
_____	nonfiction	_____	history
_____	historical fiction	_____	educational
_____	parenting		

**18. Who are your favorite authors? Why?**

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**19. Which magazines do you read regularly? Why?**

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**20. Which websites are important to you? Why?**

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**21. Which newspapers do you regularly read? \_\_\_\_\_**

**22. When you read, do you generally make notes in the margin, underline, or highlight? \_\_\_\_\_**

**23. Are there any books you have thoroughly studied and made notes, a summary, or written an essay on to share with others? (Please specify which books and why.)**

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**24. How many books do you read in an average year? \_\_\_\_\_**

**25. What books do you plan to read *this* year?**

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**26. How much time do you spend reading the Bible in an average week? \_\_\_\_\_**  
hours

**27. Which are your favorite books of the Bible? Why?**

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**28. Have you read the entire Bible? \_\_\_\_\_**

**29. Have you read the entire New Testament? \_\_\_\_\_**

**30. Which books would you rate as the most important books every Christian should read? (Please do not include the Bible here – that is a given!)**

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**37. How do I recharge/rejuvenate.**

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**38. Am I able to commit to excellence in this course of study as unto the Lord?**

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“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

~ Teddy Roosevelt, speaking at the Sorbonne in Paris, April 23, 1910 ~

***“Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God.”***

~ William Carey, 1792 ~

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date

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signature

I give permission to be in the AMBITIOUS Directory on a secured webpage \_\_\_\_\_

# *Matters of Truth and Grace*

## *For integrity and growth*

*We all must realize this simple truth –  
We don't know that we don't know.*

### *A Sampling of 'Closed-Fisted' and 'Open-Handed' Issues*

Some of the biggest lessons we can learn from our debates and disagreements is that we all need to understand another person's beliefs with a closed fist and open hand attitude. We shouldn't shy away from robust discussion and discovery – *this is where convictional learning takes place*. We shouldn't be fearful of being exposed to foreign concepts, for *Truth matters* – and is worth the effort to pursue. On close-fisted issues, to defend the biblical stance is to guard others against perhaps damnable heresy (not all heresy is damnable). To be willing to engage with others in robust dialog – among others of differing opinions in open-handed issues – is to become more literate in orthodox beliefs outside of your own tradition. As always, we must be Bereans when it comes to rightly dividing the Word of God. Sound hermeneutical principles apply. We must resist the temptation to cling to truth-claims devoid of truth.

#### Closed-Fisted

#### Doctrines

We hold in a closed fist those areas of doctrine that are considered to be essential to faithful Christianity. These issues can be thought of as both salvific and orthodox. In these areas we cannot and will not compromise, for soul integrity is at risk. These are issues that we would pray for the courage to die for and must be willing to divide over, as our forefathers did in the many historical Counsels from which we benefit.

- The divine inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture (authority and sufficiency)
- The Trinity (The Lord God is one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)
- Creation as the work of a personal and loving God
- The Deity of Christ (fully God)
- The nature of Christ's life (fully man and without sin, the '*cradle*' element of gospel)
- The sufficiency of Christ's death and work on the Cross (His work alone is what saves us, the '*cross*' element of the gospel)
- The virgin birth of Christ

- The nature of the atonement (substitutionary propitiation for our sins, the ‘cross’ element of the gospel)
- The resurrection of Christ (He rose from the grave in a literal physical body, the ‘crown’ element of the gospel)
- The ascension of Christ (He presently sits on His throne as our High King, the ‘crown’ element of the gospel)
- The radical depravity of man
- The exclusivity of the Gospel (that Jesus is the *only* way to back to God for all humanity)
- The return and judgment of Christ (Consummation of the Kingdom)
- Heaven and Hell (as the only two eternal possibilities for every human being)

*“If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ.*”

*“Wherever the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved and to be steady on all the battlefield besides is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that one point.”*

~ Martin Luther ~

## Open Hand Doctrines

We hold in an open hand areas of doctrine that truly regenerate Christians who have been disciple to any degree can genuinely disagree on. *Although some of these open-handed issues are very important, we realize that there is room for different opinions.* We should allow for robust discussion within the boundaries of common courtesy and respect. In many of these open handed issues, we have a clear convictions, and you can expect to hear teaching in accordance with these convictions. However, we are careful to distinguish between doctrinal convictions of open-handed issues and those that fit in the closed fist. In these open-handed areas, we are willing to discuss and disagree, and hopefully by God’s grace need not divide over.

Open-handed issues are not salvific, meaning they are not issues that disqualify one as a truly regenerate Believer. Being that these are not salvific, that does not mean they are of no consequence. *All ideas have consequences;* some open-handed issues bear more consequence than others. Some open-hand issues include:

- The age of the earth after Creation (Young Earth Creation/Old Earth Creation)
- Spiritual gifts and the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Cessationist, Continuationist, Sensationalist)
- The roles of men and women in church ministry and leadership (Egalitarian vs. Complementarian)
- Modes of water baptism (Credo, Protestant Paedo – Presbyterian, Lutheran)
- Believer's baptism (Credobaptism) versus Protestant Covenant infant baptism (Paedobaptism)
- Views such as Semi-Pelagianism and Augustinianism (Arminian, Calvinism)
- Views on eternal security
- Views on predestination (foreknew/'corridor' of time vs. foreknew/forelove)
- Views on the timing of eschatology (end times)
- Views on the Kingdom of God (Dispensational Premillennial, Historical Premillennial, Postmillennial, Amillennial)
- Views of the 'people of God' (Nation of Israel, Bride of Christ)
- Varying corporate worship (Regulative Principle, Normative Principle)
- Views of evangelism methods
- Varying church governance structures (Plurality of Elders, Presbytery, Congregational)
- Views of family planning
- Views of child discipleship and education

The list is not all inclusive, but it certainly makes a good point pretty clear... Not every belief requires agreement within the church. Some do, but not all.

*And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. 2 Timothy 2:24-26*