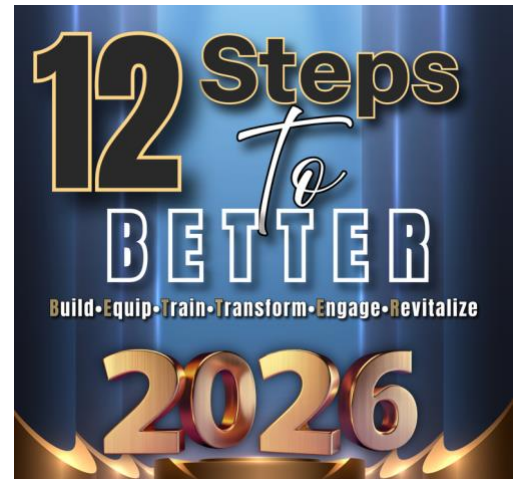


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2026 Is The Year Of B.E.T.T.E.R:

**(BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, EQUIPPING, TRAINING, TRANSFORMATION,
ENGAGE EVANGELISM, REVITALIZE)**



MercyBeth Schaefer

“STEP 1: REALIZE WE ARE INCURABLY HUMAN”

Wednesday in the Word

January 14, 2026

DUST, DIRT, DOMINION THEOLOGY

As we embark on our **12 Steps To Better** journey this year, we are utilizing an adaptation of the Narcotics Anonymous and AA steps for our walk to becoming *better*. We start with the first step of “Realize We Are Incurably Human.” When we start with this step, we admit that we are powerless and cannot do this life on our own.

Psalm 8:1–9 (NKJV)

¹O Lord, our Lord, How excellent *is* Your name in all the earth, who have set Your glory above the heavens! ²Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger. ³When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, ⁴What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? ⁵For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all *things* under his feet, ⁷All sheep and oxen—Even the beasts of the field, ⁸The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas. ⁹O Lord, our Lord, how excellent *is* Your name in all the earth!

A question we want to consider in our discussion today:

Have we unintentionally allowed our theology to dehumanize ourselves and others?

I. A Celebration of Humanity

- A. Creation reveals God’s Glory; the Heavens declare His handiwork.
- B. All of creation, humanity is given a unique role that reflects the image of God.

II. Avoid Demonization of Your Humanity

- A. Consider how even the simplest things, like infants, praise God and demonstrate His Strength.
- B. Our perspective can shift our dependence from self-reliance to reliance on God.
- C. Acknowledge that our humanity, with its frailties, is still part of God’s wonderful design and ultimate plan.

III. A Prioritization of Humility

- A. Recognize the importance of seeing others as valuable creations of God and fostering community.

- B. Create opportunities to advocate for the marginalized, celebrating the worth of every individual in practical ways.

IV. A Visitation (Care) of the Divinity

- A. Appreciate that God's intimate knowledge of us brings comfort and assurance of His presence.

- B. Meditate on the truth that God's care goes beyond mere observation; He actively intervenes in our lives for our good and His glory.

- C. Cultivate a sense of peace in recognizing that our worth is not based on our achievements but on God's choice to love and care for us.

