



Biblical Counseling Ministries, Inc.

A Church-Based Christian Counseling Ministry

Sue Nicewander, M.A.B.C.

Website: www.bcmin.org

Email: bcmin@wctc.net

BCM REPORT ▶ FEBRUARY 2010

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love...
Ephesians 4:1-2

ARE YOU STUCK?

The apostle Paul was stuck in a nasty prison when he wrote Ephesians. He had none of the physical amenities available to prisoners today. Friends or family had to provide his daily necessities. There were no bathroom facilities, no furniture, no food or clothing, no time off for good behavior. Yet we never hear Paul complain, nor do we see him begging for his freedom.

That's because Paul *was free*. Paul did not see himself as a prisoner of the government. Even though he suffered harsh circumstances at their hands, he didn't consider himself stuck because he saw himself as the prisoner of Jesus Christ.

Paul remembered that God controlled everything that came into his life – even the bad stuff. He knew God put him where he was, remained there with him, gave him meaningful opportunities, and was working everything together for good (Romans 8:28-29). The apostle realized that 'good' is not the same as 'easy' or 'comfortable' or 'pleasant.' Good means 'like Christ.' How did Christ respond to false accusations, mocking, pain, and threats? Paul responded gratefully, humbly, gently, patiently, purposefully and lovingly, because that's what Christ did. And he trusted God with the outcome.

So Paul was free from worry or fear about the situation. He was free from resentment. He was free from despair. He was free to love people even when they didn't love him back. He knew he was already loved by his Savior, and he followed in His footsteps.

Are you imprisoned in a difficult marriage, or a job with an impossible boss, or in a painfully deteriorating body? God is using those very means to make you like Christ. Freedom means you recognize God's sovereign control over the situations of your life, and you honor Him in the way you respond. You can be fully effective and pleasing to Him when you respond as Paul did: with gratitude, purpose, grace, forgiveness... you get the idea. Then you are truly free.

Christ has put you where you can most effectively grow into His likeness. Will you cooperate with His agenda? How will you reflect the image of Christ within your prison today?

To help us serve you better: PRAYER REQUESTS and MINISTRY NEEDS

- We have several new counselees starting now. Please pray for each of them to respond like Christ as they struggle in their personal prisons.
- It's time to register for our NEW class: Strengthening Marriages and Families Biblically. See below for details.
- Pray for our current students. They are working hard to learn how to reach out with God's Word to help others. Many of them are pursuing NANC certification, which is a big endeavor.
- Thank you to our faithful donors. 2009 was the first year we have been able to pay our counselor regularly! But don't stop praying. Church donations have been cut for 2010 due to economic difficulties, so please do continue to pray and to give as you are able. We trust God to meet our every need. BCM is His work.

A BRAND NEW CLASS

Class location: Grace Baptist Church, 1500 Hoover Ave, Plover
715-341-4445 or 715-423-7190

Basic Skills BSK401: STRENGTHENING MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES BIBLICALLY

**Tuesday evenings, Feb 23-Mar 23, 2010
6:00-8:30 PM**

**Instructors: Biblical Counselor Sue Nicewander and
Pastor Steve Steinmetz**

A resource class offering practical Biblical help for marriages and families. Connects the teachings of the Bible with the practical experiences and difficulties of real life in today's homes.

TO REGISTER: Look for our newsletters* or posters, or print a registration form at www.bcmin.org.

To receive our free monthly newsletter that includes registration information for upcoming classes and seminars: Email BCM with your name, address, and email address, with the subject ENEWSLETTER