



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 ▶ SEPTEMBER 2010

I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche that they be of the same mind in the Lord. Philippians 4:2

We Just Can't Get Along!

Conflict is not unusual in any relationship, even between believers. After all, we are all sinners, and sin causes problems. The November BCM seminar offers practical help with weathering storms in relationships. But since conflicts don't wait for seminars, here are a few tips.

When conflicts occur, avoid the temptation to personalize.

To personalize is to become anxious or to think the worst of the offender's intentions toward you: "She must have meant to hurt me!" This approach dwells on the offense rather than loving the offender, focuses on self rather than on God, and nurtures bitterness rather than grace. Scripture instructs us to think on good things (Phil. 4:8-9), deny anger (Jas 1:20; Eph. 4:31-32), believe the best of others (I Cor. 13: 7), extend grace (Heb. 12:15), and acknowledge God's good purpose for trials: to grow Christ-likeness in us (Rom. 8:28-29; I Cor. 10:13).

When conflicts occur, avoid the temptation to ignore them.

Neglecting to address problems only allows them to mount up and fester. Ephesians 4:26 warns us: "Be angry and do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger." In other words, begin the problem-solving process as soon as conflicts arise. (See also Matt. 5:23-24.)

When conflicts occur, avoid the temptation to vent or to become aggressive, even when the situation is painful.

Nobody wins when evil is repaid with evil (Rom. 12:17-21).

Instead, go to the other person in love, whether you are the offender (Matthew 5:23-24) or the offended (Luke 17:3-4).

- (1) Seek to bring glory to God in the ways you respond to conflict.
- (2) Seek to identify your part in the problem and address your own faults in the matter before trying to change others.
- (3) Seek to restore the relationship on Biblical terms by forgiving the offender (or seeking forgiveness), to the extent that you are able (Romans 12:18).
- (4) Seek to identify and solve the problem that started the conflict.

To learn more about applying these four points, consult the book *The Peacemaker*, by Ken Sande. And come to our pre-seminar ("Getting Along at Work") and seminar ("Weathering Storms in Relationships with Friends, at Church, and in Marriage & Parenting"). Pastor Dan Pugh, a Certified Conciliator with Peacemaker Ministries, and his wife Kathy, will explain the principles of peacemaking and help us to apply them effectively in five different kinds of relationships. For more information, see our ad on this page, or go to our website.

To help us serve you better:

PRAYER REQUESTS and MINISTRY NEEDS

- Praise for counselees who are gaining hope through the Word, and for the faithful disciplers walking alongside them in their local churches.
- Pray for NANC certification of our Training Center.
- We are working on a book about our ministry model to help others develop counseling resources for small churches. Please pray for this project.
- Praise for many opportunities to speak at seminars and retreats this fall! Pray for Christ to be magnified and attenders to be blessed.



A DISCIPLESHIP DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

WEATHERING STORMS IN RELATIONSHIPS

Pre-seminar Friday, Nov 5 7:00-9:15

Seminar Saturday, Nov 6 9:00-3:30

Everyday Discipleship Track: Fri & Sat

Dan and Kathy Pugh, speakers

Friday: Getting Along at Work

Saturday: Weathering Storms in Relationships with Friends, at Church, and in Marriage and Parenting

Focused Discipleship Track: Saturday

Basic Skills for Giving Wise Counsel (NANC Training)

Pastors Toolbox Track: Saturday

Developing Leaders in Your Church

Mark your calendar! More information at www.bcmin.org.

Home Office/ Appointments: Calvary Baptist Church • 469 Airport Avenue • Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 • (715) 423-7190

Training Center: Grace Baptist Church • 1500 Hoover Avenue • Plover, Wisconsin 54467 • (715) 341-4445

Resource Center: Faith Baptist Church • 2740 14th St. South • Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494 • (715) 424-1141

Support Center: First Baptist Church • 1500 Roman Road • Waupaca, Wisconsin 54981 • (715) 258-3535

Additional Counseling Site: Berea Baptist Church • 2216 Ellis Street • Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481 • (715) 344-7038