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February 2018

The Book of Colossians

Inside Terry's Office:

The Book of Colossians - Rules for Holy Living

We are aware that there have been some additions made to our Bibles that the writers never considered. One – the books of the Bible have been divided into chapters and numbered verses. Two – topic headings have been added to help us distinguish the themes of sets of verses.

My Zondervan New International Version Bible has the topic heading “Rules for Holy Living” at the beginning of chapter three of the book of Colossians. “Rules for Holy Living”, really? Just by reading this heading, I’m already defensive and skeptical. You see, I believe that “Rules” do not assist in “Holy Living” since holy living is primarily a relational dynamic, not a performance-based dynamic.

Before we look together at the verses that follow this heading, let me tell you about the expectations our family has of ourselves and each other. These expectations are not rules but “trusts” that we have of each other. They are simple and few; 1) We do not intentionally hurt each other, 2) We do not intentionally hurt ourselves, and 3) We don’t keep our failures secret. All our other expectations of each other flow from these ideas. Chores, manners, money management, sexuality, jobs, church, food, athletics, clothes, education, bed times – instead of family rules, we simply expect our values to be the three listed above. If there are conflicts or disappointments, we may ask each other, “Were you intending to be hurtful to me?”, or “Are you being hurtful to yourself?”, or “Is there something you haven’t told me?”

Otherwise, we could have dozens of “rules” and try to hold each other accountable to them. A lot of marriage and parenting curriculums give “godly principles” about how to best make that work. But, why not just get to the heart of the matter and ask the questions that mean the most to us? If we can honestly discuss these questions, we can find our way together in all our relational issues. If we can not honestly discuss these questions, I not sure what good is gained by holding each other accountable to an arbitrary set of rules.

So, what are the “Rules for Holy Living” stated in Colossians 3:1?

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your heart on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.”

Ohhhh, thank goodness! Instead of a list of rules, we are given a relational expectation: Tell me what is in your heart! Follow your heart! Our God and Savior are set above all earthly things in our hearts! ... Yes! True! I want you to know that about me. I want you to tell me that is true for you. Especially when we have conflict and frustration with each other, let’s state the truth about ourselves and let that lead us. Let’s not argue about ‘the rules’. Let’s address the most wonderful truth about ourselves with each other: Despite our differences, disagreements, failures, fears, woundedness, weaknesses, and stupidity; we love Jesus and want to be like him!

If we can’t/don’t believe that about each other, no amount of healthy relating and behaving will satisfy us with each other.

In His Grip, TWE



ESTABLISHING A PLUMBLINE IN THE HEART OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The Plumbline

Camz Counsel
Colossians, Everything You Need

“Strengthen them with Your infinite power, according to Your glorious might, so that they will have everything they need to hold on and endure hardship patiently and joyfully. Colossians 1:11, The Voice

An excerpt from 66 Love Letters, Love Letter 51:

*The false teachers in the Colossian church spoke of power, the power to feel the fullness of the relationship that is now yours, the power to enjoy the freedom of final victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil. But all that comes later. For now, I [God, the Father] give you, according to My glorious might, **the power, not to experience the satisfaction you want or the relief from struggle you desire but the power to endure** difficult circumstances and to be patient with difficult people [1:11]. With that power you can continue to believe My plan is on course and to advance My plan by loving others while you wait in hope for satisfaction beyond what you can now imagine.”*

Apparently there were many religious options in Colosse and there were some who thought Jesus should just be added in the mix. Paul, however, said Jesus was no add-on! Jesus, the Creator and Sustainer and head of the church deserved full and undivided attention [Colossians introduction, The Voice]. Paul’s words to the Colossians are just as pertinent today where there are many philosophies that promote finding fulfillment in experiences now. We become solution oriented and focused. The teachings of Jesus that we like and the scripture that supports our agenda is what is promoted.

It is this sentiment or attitude that I confront on a regular basis in my counseling office. Sometimes I find folks spinning their wheels in the muck of trying to find something that works that will make them feel better now. We can become overly emotionally invested in the outcome, the result that will produce the most satisfaction. Unless we can find the path of least resistance, then we end up in the spinning. Praying often becomes just another tool to be used to find that path, an ends to a means, one more attempt to get the result we want.

I took a call from an inquiring medical professional seeking information about what kind of counseling we do here and if it was a place where she could refer patients. She had heard that we have opened our services up beyond sponsoring churches for fee. She was looking for Christian based counseling believing herself that was a model of counseling people most needed. However, her question was if people came here would they be offended? Would we try to impose our beliefs on them? One of the many things I love about Plumblin Ministries is that we promote an environment that embraces the struggles of life. We believe that is where God’s power is perfected in us. We unapologetically address the three roots of behavior, spiritual, emotional and relational and yes, someone could get offended.

The verse I quoted above, 1:11, is a part of Paul’s opening prayer for the Colossians which begins with, “Father, may they clearly know Your will and achieve the height and depth of spiritual wisdom and understanding. May their lives be a credit to You Lord, and what’s more, may they continue to delight You by doing every good work and growing in the true knowledge that comes from being close to You.” (1:9,10, The Voice)

I read this quote from Oswald Chambers today, “Wherever he has engineered your circumstances, pray. So send I You.” God does not call us where he does not equip you. Wherever you are, embrace your reality and make a godly response!

Carol Anne

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FINANCIAL AND MINISTRY UPDATES

As you know, our sponsoring churches provide for most of our overhead expenses. Asbury U.M.C., Believer's Church, The Bridge (new this year), River Oaks Presbyterian, Northside Christian, and Parkview Baptist Church are our partners in ministry. We are proud to represent ourselves as extensions of the pastoral staffs of these churches.

Our staff members are hired as independent contractors and negotiate their salaries on a six month basis. For 2017 our staff has contributed time and services valued at over \$190,000! These services do not include their continuing education and internal Soul Care hours or the time spent in "management chores" (cleaning, office management, etc.)

FUNdraiser

WHEN: Tuesday, February 27, 2018

5:00 - 8:00 P.M.

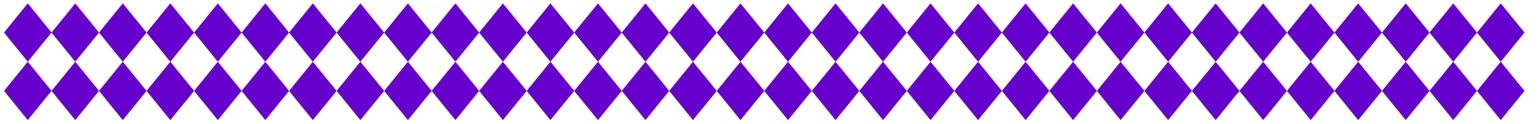
WHERE: SMITTY'S GARAGE

7104 South Sheridan Road

Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136

10% of all proceeds will be donated to Plumblin Ministries!

Please come and support Plumblin!



PLUMBLINE CLASSROOM TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

The Classroom Transformation Project is just one of the projects we are currently working toward at Plumblime.

What is the Classroom Transformation Project?

OUR VISION: To transform the existing classroom into a warm and welcoming living room type environment to allow class members to feel comfortable, encouraging emotional growth.

REQUIREMENTS: This project will include painting, lighting, upgrades to the wall décor, adding a pass through bar counter in the kitchen, window treatments, transform the floor coverings, and furniture upgrades at a minimum.

BUDGET: The overall budget for this project is \$15,000 to include all items.

TIMELINE: Once the funds have been acquired, the project will be scheduled and completed.

ASKING: We are seeking donations to assist us in completing this Classroom Transformation Project.

VOLUNTEERS: Additional ways to assist will be by volunteering your time and expertise when the actual work begins.

Would you partner with us for this project?

Donations can be sent to Plumblime Ministries, Inc. [8222 E 103rd Street, Tulsa, OK 74133](#).

All donations are Tax Deductible.

Stickman's Prayers

stickman's prayers

the everyday practice of
"loosing prayers"
and the ministry of
"exploratory prayers"



Michelle Carpenter
Terry Ewing
Erin Garcia
Margo Hanne
Carolyn Knippers
Carol McNamarra
Sue Merrill

Plumblin's newest book, *Stickman's Prayers* has been published and is now available at Plumblin!

Would you be surprised to know that the "Prayer of Jabez" was a joke?

Would you be happy to know what kind of prayers are appropriate for you to pray for yourself and what kinds are meant for you to pray for others and others for you?

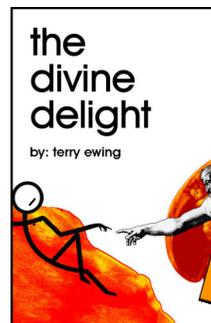
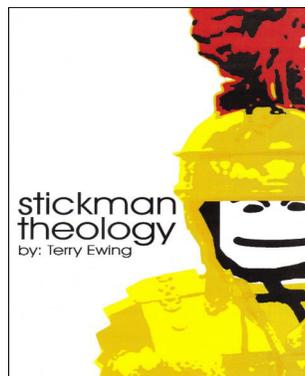
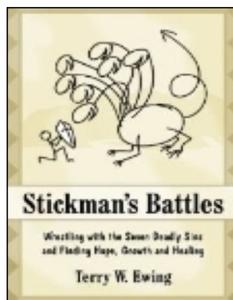
Would you like confidence and freedom to simply enjoy your personal and ministry prayers?

Praying is the most natural thing in the world for Christians; an on going conversation with our best friend, counselor, and confidant; gratitude to our Savior and provider; intercession on behalf of our friends; requests to our Creator. In this regard, a book on prayer may seem presumptuous. When you write a book on Prayer aren't you suggesting that some are praying wrongly, or, at least could be praying better?

That really is not the kind of message we look to promote. So...why the book?

The *Stickman's Prayers* serves two purposes. First, to challenge some ideas that other teaching and preaching concerning prayer has promoted. And, to offer simple encouragements to personal prayer and prayer ministries.

Available at Plumblin for a suggested donation of \$10.00 each



Did you know you can download

Stickman Theology

On your KINDLE?

Did you know that when you shop on Amazon, you could be helping to financially support Plumblin? Through the Amazon smiles program, **Amazon will donate a portion of the sales to Plumblin.** All you need to do is go to smiles.amazon.com, designate Plumblin Ministries, and start shopping! Amazon will then donate 0.5% of the total sales price to Plumblin. Please remember to bookmark that page and you can help us as you shop!

PLUMBLINE

MINISTRIES

8222 E. 103rd St

Suite 127

Tulsa, OK 74133

