

Inside Terry's Office	1
Camz Counsel	2
Soul Care	3
Winter Class Offerings	4
Book Sales	5

I PETER

Inside Terry's Office:

Peter (the dunderhead) Gives Relational Advice

As we continue working our way through the books of the Bible we have arrived at 1Peter!

Even though the gospels, the Book of Acts, and many references in Paul's epistles paint Peter as a relational dunderhead ('dunderhead' is a Hebrew reference to a nincompoop), Peter (inspired by the Holy Spirit) is offering us amazing relational wisdom!

Before addressing the difficult relational dynamics of submitting to oppressive Political Powers and the conflicts between husbands and wives, he attempts to ground our egos in the wonderful truths of who we are in Christ: *"a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God..."* He encourages us to trust ourselves (our egos, our identities, our purposes) to God alone. THEN, he begins to talk to us about our difficult relationships!

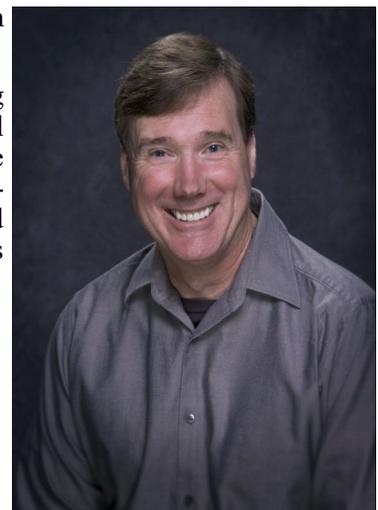
Concerning the UNGODLY government they suffered under Paul advises us to talk less and focus on the good works God has prepared us for. Concerning marriage, Paul encourages wives to "submit" to their husbands, and husbands to "be considerate" of their wives. BOTH these encouragements can only be given to a person in a position of POWER over the other. In effect, Paul is comparing both husbands and wives to the current government powers they live under. He is giving the same advice in marriage that he did in politics; "stop your sharp tongues and focus on your own actions". He is telling them to think of themselves in terms of the powerful, world changing people they are in Christ and stop seeing themselves as victims of the system or other people.

In Chapter 3 verse 7 Paul tells the husbands to treat their wives with respect *"as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of Life ..."* This statement is NOT a declaration that wives are the weaker partner but that we all perceive those that differ from us and disagree with us to be "weaker". The same idea is present in the encouragement for wives, from a position of power, to "submit" to their husbands; a good translation could be, "Don't make them feel dumb just because you can out-talk them."

And to top it off, Paul uses Abraham and Sarah as an example. He begins by pointing out that Sarah showed as much respect as she possibly could to Abraham, even as he was doing the dumbest and most cowardly things (polygamy and pretending they weren't married). Then, he referred to Abraham suffering by doing the right thing. I believe he is continuing with the story that the Hebrews knew very well; When Abraham prepared to offer Isaac as a sacrifice to God (the right thing), Sarah had lost trust in him and could not accept that Abraham was really willing to do such a thing, and never lived with or spoke to Abraham thereafter.

Peter spoke directly to real-life dilemmas. He isn't just throwing out high-minded concepts. He is referencing real, painful relational situations. He makes me believe that even dunderheads can become wise by 1) seeing themselves as they are in Christ (powerful), 2) admitting that they tend to think of others as dumber and/or weaker, and 3) arming themselves with the same attitude Christ Jesus has toward us (4:1).

In His Grip, TWE



ESTABLISHING A PLUMBLINE IN THE HEART OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The Plumbline



CAMZ COUNSEL

NOVEMBER 2018

I PETER

“Following Me requires groaning; living as a stranger in a world that only can leave you disappointed. But know this: Only in the felt and accepted tension of unmet longings will you prepare your mind, not for comfort but for action, for living as a stranger devoted to bringing My kingdom to earth. Only in tension will you depend enough on My Word and My Spirit to enter the battle whose victory is guaranteed.”

(66 Love Letters, Love Letter Sixty, I Peter)

I Peter 2:24-25 (The Voice), “He took on our sins in His body *when He died* on the cross so that we, being dead to sin, can live for righteousness. *As the Scripture says*, ‘Through His wounds, you were healed.’ For there was a time when you were like sheep that wandered from the fold, but now you have returned to the Shepherd, and Guardian of your lives.”

Crabb gives this commentary about the above verses from I Peter; God heals *waywardness, not difficulties*. He says that God’s Son’s wounds *have healed you from everything that stands in the way of finding your way back home to Him*. He also says to expect to be richly equipped to tell My [God’s] story of love in any circumstance.

This week I have been asking some counselees to consider one of our motivational principles as counselors and it is that ***we lead our counselees to face and embrace their reality and make a Godly response (to the reality.)*** I have asked them to give me their honest response of what that statement says to them-- How do you feel about that statement? One counselee who came to the session feeling all alone in the weight of responsibility said what she hears in that statement is more of the same, “Just deal with it.” “Hang in there.” She said it felt hopeless and burdensome. And the Godly Response? Be obedient, she said, which also felt burdensome and heavy and difficult. Another counselee in a similar situation said her reality is that “This is always the way it’s going to be and I don’t like it.” And the Godly Response? Also obedience in the sense that she recognizes that she is one who wants to know how to fix things and then she will fix it! The frustrating thing is that both would believe that they have tried to be obedient but to a futile end.

Look back to the first quote from 66 Love Letters. Do you see the facing and embracing of the *REALITY* and the Godly response?

Facing The Reality:

Following God requires groaning (Romans 8:26);

Living as a stranger (I Peter 1:1)

in a world that will leave you disappointed.

Embracing the Reality:

But Know This:

Only in the felt and accepted tension of unmet longings will you prepare your mind, not for comfort but for action.

And the Godly Response:

For living as a stranger devoted to bringing My kingdom to earth. Only in tension will you depend enough on My Word and My Spirit to enter the battle whose victory is guaranteed. (I Peter 1:13)

Obedience? Yes, obedience is a godly response but I Peter says, “Be like obedient children as you put aside the desires you used to pursue (the unmet longings) when you didn’t know better. Since the One who called you is holy, be holy in all you do.” (I Peter 1:14, 15)

I read this quote about obedience from Denise Lopez that I think is so good and appropriate here, “Obedience never looks at me, it says look TO HIM. Obedience always leads to the blessing of knowing Christ more intimately and encouraging others to do the same.”

Where you are in your *REALITY* is exactly where God can do His best work in you! He has you exactly where He can conform you to the image of His Son and lead you home with Him. Through the wounds of Jesus you were healed from your wayward wanderings, your vain attempts at managing life that lead you away from Him. ~ *Carol Anne*



SOUL CARE

If you are tired of getting the same results and are looking for a change,
then come learn a new way!

PLUMBLINE MINISTRIES, INC. has new classes beginning in January 2019.

SOUL CARE—Unit 2—Emotional Freedom

Begins January 10 through April 4, 2019

In this unit of study we will dedicate ourselves to finding freedom in the expression of emotion, the ownership of emotion, and the freedom that comes from the God-given response to emotionally charged situations.

Plumblineline now offers Soul Care classes On-Site, as Video on Demand, and in Satellite Groups.

Check out below which options are best for you.

On-Site: With the on-site experience you will get the opportunity to interact in a small group setting with Terry and your classmates. The ability to ask questions and to process information together is very beneficial. You will also enjoy the experience of the student led presentations during several of the units. Book discussions are also included in the on-site classes. The class meets on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30. Cost: \$250.00 per unit.

Video-On-Demand: If time and/or distance is an issue to you being able to take Soul Care on site, you can now enjoy the same teaching at your own pace, at a time of your choice, and at any location! Plumblineline now offers the entire 6 semesters to be viewed as “on demand”. Cost: \$100.00 per unit.

Satellite Groups: Satellite groups are now forming to help facilitate Soul Care classes. We currently have a group that meets in Owasso and are looking for others that would be willing to form new groups. If you are a Soul Care alumni, we are offering special incentives to you, if you would like to host a new satellite group in your area! Cost: Please contact the office.

Plumblineline offers three additional classes which will begin again in January and February 2019 are open to the public. Our “**Codependency**”, **Boundaries**,” and “**Safe People** “ classes help give practical help to those who might be struggling with these issues or know someone who is. Each class is a 10 week course that meets once a week. Each class is offered two or three times per year, so if you missed the last one, check back often for when it will start again!

WINTER CLASSES 2019

Looking for a change?

Tired of getting the same results?

Come learn a new way!

PLUMBLINE MINISTRIES, INC. has

NEW classes starting soon!

CoDependency—When good behaviors are taken too far or when I need you to be okay for me to be okay, you may need the skills taught in the codependency class.

Starts: To be announced in December's Newsletter

Cost—\$70.00 plus book

Boundaries—Why do I say yes, when I want to say no? Do I feel controlled by others? Do I feel a need to control others? Get help with questions like these and many more by learning about

BOUNDARIES!

Starts: To be announced in December's Newsletter

Cost \$70.00 plus book

Safe People—Learn how to identify the nurturing people we all need and want in our lives as well as how to be that person for those in our lives!

Starts: Wednesday, February 6—10 weeks—6:30—8:30 p.m.

Cost \$70.00 plus book.

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?

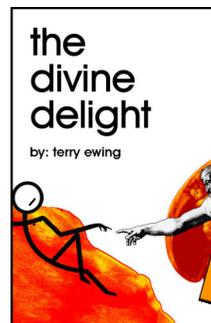
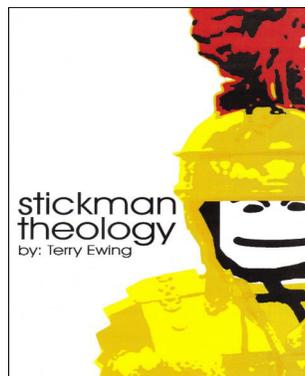
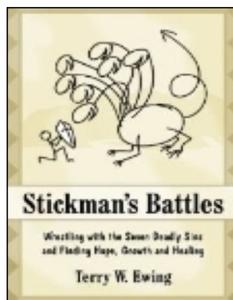
Would you like confidence and freedom to simply enjoy your personal and ministry prayers?

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

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