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# ROMANS

## *Inside Terry's Office: The Book of Romans*

We know that the Bible is uniquely the 'Word of God'. One way that uniqueness is seen is that it is the only history-book written from the perspective of 'the losers'. Our American history (and all other national histories) are written from the perspective of the victors ("the winners write the history"). Even when the nation of Israel was 'winning', those times in history were written by the prophets who were 'speaking truth to those in power'.

Now, in the book of Romans, it would be a mistake for us (American conservative Christians) to identify with the Gentiles (which, technically, we are). Rather, we should identify with what Paul has to say to the Jewish Christians (to whom the letter is addressed) because we are the 'predominant religious culture' as the Jews were among Christians of that day. So, when Paul states, "*You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things*", we tend to have the same response as the Jewish Christians did:

"I/we do not do the same things that those other so-called Christians (or that my spouse) does."

"I/we can't begin to understand why they think that is even OK to think/vote/talk/act that way."

"If I/we don't set them straight they will just proceed to get worse and worse."

"You can't really mean that I/we are not to judge them for what they are doing when they are causing more harm than they seem to even know."

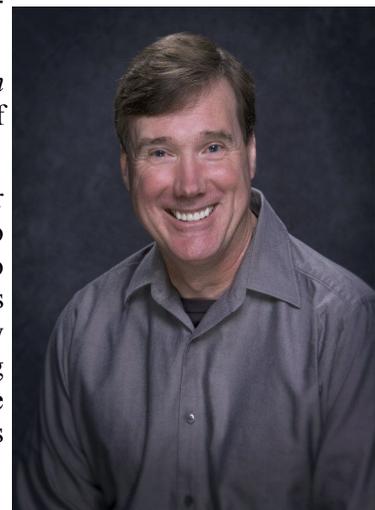
It is sooooo tempting to believe that whatever our theology, convictions, principles are, we have adopted them out of the good intentions of our good hearts and, therefore, when others disagree with us it must indicate a hardness of heart in them. To those of us who tempted to make these judgments, Paul simply says, "GET OVER YOURSELF". Of course, Paul says it in a more gracious, patient, apostolic-type way. Never-the-less, that is what he says; "Get over yourself, and get on with faith in Jesus."

Through faith in Jesus, we can believe that the Holy Spirit is every bit as busy in them as He is in us. We can put away any measuring sticks we may have for determining if one believer is 'doing better' than another. Even when sin is obvious, discipline is necessary, boundaries must be put in place, and relationships have to be redefined, don't fall for the temptation of judging another person's heart.

Remember, "*This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference* (in the degree of righteousness)."

What a blessing and comfort this truth is. We get to relax into our common bond of dependence on Jesus. We get to put away our need to 'measure ourselves against ourselves' (which is foolish). We get to offer others the particular ministries that God has called and gifted us for and trust that others are doing the same. We don't have to worry that the rest of the Body of Christ is not 'doing their job' or is messing up what we are trying to do. When we get to the bridal ceremony we will see that we are a beautiful bride, and that He is glad to have us as his bride!

In His Grip, TWE



*Sometimes.....  
There's Dog Poo!!*

Do you want to learn facts you can organize into a system of truth that will let you feel smug in the belief that you're right? **Or do you want to discover truth that sings?** (Love Letter Forty-Five: Romans, 66 Love Letters, Larry Crabb)

Crabb quotes G.K. Chesterton, "Poets fill their heads with truths that lift their imaginations into the heavens. **They are the grown-ups who hear the music of truth and dance like children.**"

When I was a little girl I remember rolling in the grass over and over. It was best if there was a small decline to roll down; squealing "weeee" all the way to the bottom. I loved that small dose of free fall until the day I rolled through dog poo and had to face my mother at the door to our house where she quickly squealed with a not so delightful squeal directing me to the back door to strip off all my clothes before being allowed back in the house. 15 years ago I attended Larry Crabb's School of Spiritual Directing at Glen Eyrie in Colorado where there are beautiful grounds with trees and grassy slopes. At age 51 I shared with my small group of three, my story of rolling through dog poo and how that had been such a rude and abrupt end to an innocent and playful game of my childhood. That day on the grassy slope of the Glen, my friends and I rolled and squealed down a hill together with great delight. I will never forget that experience of sweet community, restoring a joy that I had lost.

In the book of Romans Paul works diligently to distinguish between living under either the bondage of the

law or grace where the law serves as a standard by which we evaluate ourselves. He gives this clear distinction within the context of freedom in our relationship to God and in our relationship to others. Chapter 2 transitions from a focus on our relationship with God to focus on our relationship to others and the importance of community. Verse 5 says, "In Christ we, though many, form one body." This verse shows us that we can be connected and united with safe people who love God. (*Insight* from The Journey Bible, Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend)

Romans 12:1-3 is a favorite passage of mine but not until I came to a place of freedom in receiving from the word of God. For many years I approached the word of God as if I was going *to roll through dog poo* and face God's disgust with me at the door! But now with a "poet's" lens here is what I see in these verses:

**1"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God--- this is your true and proper worship.**

I stand at the door in my dog poo without fear of condemnation knowing God will embrace me poo and all and giggle with me. I will tell him what I have done and what I learned from the experience knowing that I am fully loved and He feels honored when I come into his presence fully ME.

**2"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is ---his good, pleasing and perfect will."**

When I am not standing in shame but freedom I am available to

receive what God has for me. I do not have to try to guess according to what others might do or think. I think on my own.

**3"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you."**

Think about it, when you are standing in shame, where is your focus? I would venture to say it's pretty self-absorbed. In freedom we can stand before God knowing indeed I am capable either by accident or carelessness to roll through the poo of life. With sober judgment we are deeply honest about who we are in the midst of the poo having faith that we are accepted.

I hope that you are at a place where you are able to *hear the music of truth and dance like children* or roll down a grassy slope of truth and squeal with delight!

~  
*Carol Anne*





Join us for Spirit Night at  
**Chick-fil-A at Bixby!**  
Come and Support  
**Plumblin Ministries, Inc.**

Come to **Chick-fil-A at Bixby** on  
**Tuesday, August 15th, from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm**  
Select Plumblin Staff will be present from **5:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

Dine in or Drive Thru

**Tell your cashier** when you order you are  
participating in the Spirit Night  
and a percentage of the  
dollar amount collected will go directly to Plumblin Ministries, Inc.



## ~FUND RAISER~

Plumblin Ministries is blessed to have received support by our sponsoring churches and by YOU for the last 23 years! We thank you for this support and pray it will continue! As a nonprofit organization Plumblin Ministries works to raise funds in a variety of ways including grants and fundraising. We are currently working to raise \$10,000 for a matching fund the Board of Directors can use for special projects or needs. This matching fund could be used as stand alone funding or in conjunction with a grant or donation that is received.

Plumblin is partnering with Chick-fil-A for a Chick-fil-A Sprit Day on Tuesday, August 15th to raise funds for this matching fund. Please join us! Schedule a breakfast with friends, a business lunch, or take your grandchildren to lunch before they go back to school!

Dine in or Drive through from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**REMEMBER.....tell your Chick-fil-A cashier you're supporting Plumblin!**

Select Plumblin staff will be at Chick-Fil-A from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. to visit you.

**Come see us!**

If you'd like to make direct donations to this matching fund you may also do so by designating this on your check or electronic transaction.

**Hope to see you at Chick-fil-A on Tuesday, August 15th!**

# New Fall Classes

***Plumblineline will be offering the following classes beginning in September:***

**Co-Dependency:** *Were you raised to be nurturing, caring, loving and responsible? That's a good thing....right? So I'm doing these "good things" and yet I'm called a "control freak", bossy, selfish, and obsessed? Can someone tell me please...when did nurturing, caring, loving and being responsible become such bad things? If you are struggling with these issues, then this class will be of tremendous support and encouragement to you. Taught by Marion Fuller. Class Begins Sunday September 10 from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.*

**Boundaries:** *What are boundaries and why are they important? Boundaries are unseen structures that protect us from harm and support healthy, productive lives. Boundaries are personal property lines that define who you are and who you are not, and influence all areas of your life. They give you the freedom to walk as the loving, giving, fulfilled individual God created you to be. Taught by Michelle Carpenter. Class begins Tuesday September 12, from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.*

**Safe People:** *Want to discern safe from unsafe people? Do you need practical steps for leading you to individuals who truly make you a better person by their presence in your life? Do you want to take ownership of your own unsafe tendencies and become a safe person for others? Countless individuals have invested themselves in others only to be used, abused, or abandoned. They have lost their sense of security and personal value in the process. Would you like to avoid repeating your own mistakes? If you are ready to look inside your self for blind spots or vulnerabilities and outside to evaluate the nature of others, both good and bad, then please join us as we learn to identify the nurturing people we all need and want in our lives. Taught by Margo Hanne. Class begins Wednesday September 13, 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.*

***Each class is \$70.00 and runs for 10 weeks. Please visit our website, [www.plumblinelineonline.com](http://www.plumblinelineonline.com), or enroll at the office.***

## ***COMING THIS FALL!***

*September 7-November 16, 2017*

*Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 P.M.*

*Soul Care Training VI Unit 4*

*Taught by Terry Ewing*

*Unit Topic: Family Dynamics*

The Family Dynamics Unit will be 11 weeks. Class will **NOT** be cancelled for fall break the week of October 19, 2017.

The weekly topics being covered are:

- \* Developmental Psychology
- \* Parenting
- \* Blended Families
- \* Essentials and Nonessentials of Faith & Ethics
- \* Family Systems
- \* Trauma Processing
- \* Identifying Personal Traumas
- \* Introduction to Dissociation

The required reading for this unit will be Terry's manuscript of his newest Stickman book, **Stickman's Family**, and **Living from the Heart Jesus Gave You** by James Wilder and assorted authors. The second book identifies the difference between Trauma A and trauma B and will be a valuable treat for trauma processing. The manuscript will be distributed with your course curriculum. Living from the Heart can be purchased through Amazon.

The cost for the unit of study will again be \$250 with a **\$50 deposit due by Thursday, August 10, 2017**. The remaining \$200 will be due by the first class session, Thursday, September 7.

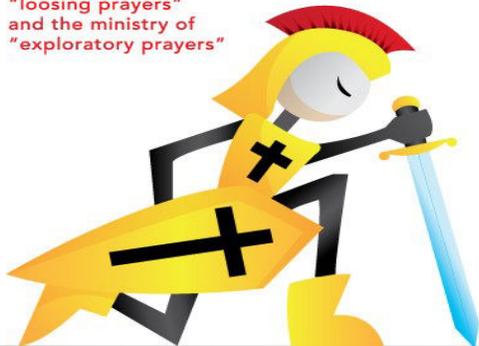
For further information, please visit our website at [www.plumblonline.com](http://www.plumblonline.com).

# Stickman's Prayers

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

## 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

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?

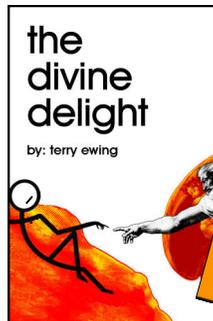
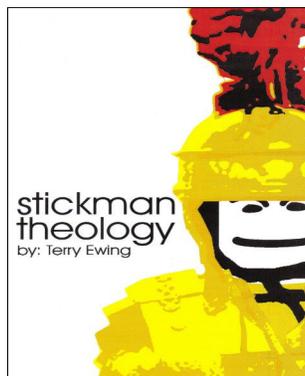
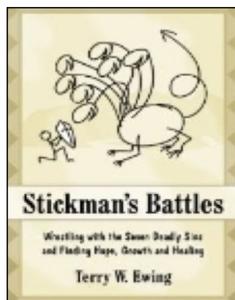
Would you like confidence and freedom to simply enjoy your personal and ministry prayers?

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](https://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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