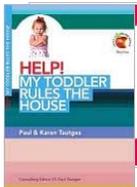


# Resources for Life Change

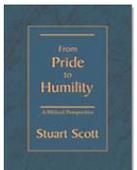
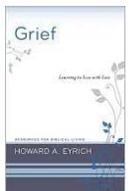
(Resources are available in the Grace Resource Center):

***What To Do When Your Marriage Goes Sour***, by Jay Adams--- An excellent pamphlet that provides a very challenging, encouraging, and helpful message for any married couple who have seen their marriage go sour. It's only a pamphlet but a great resource to help sort through love, commitment, problems in marriage, etc.



***Help! My Toddler Rules the House***, by Paul and Karen Tautges---We live in a society dominated by child-centered parenting. A typical walk through a shopping mall, or local grocery store, often reveals this sad truth. The almost incessant whining of undisciplined children leads the discerning person to ask, "Just who is in charge anyway?" In this booklet, the seasoned parents of ten children provide frazzled moms and dads with practical counsel for bringing order to their home.

***Grief: Learning to Live with Loss***, by Howard A. Eyrich---Here Eyrich helps us not to grieve like those who have no hope. Receive true biblical comfort for grief as the author addresses not only the reality of losing loved ones in death, but also the many other experiences that can lead us to mourn. This fresh approach will tell you, in a personally applicable way, how to work through your grief and emerge grown and matured.



***From Pride to Humility***, by Stuart Scott---This resource is phenomenal, to say the least. In a short, concise booklet format, Stuart Scott defines pride and then gives a breakdown of all of the various ways pride shows up in our lives in subtle, and not so subtle, ways. He then explains humility and writes about the qualities of humility and challenges the reader to put off pride and put on humility in very specific ways.

## COMMUNITY OF GRACE TRAINING (Spring Semester)

Do you want to learn more about Biblical Counseling and how God's Word speaks to all counseling issues? Do you want to understand more fully how you can take God's Word and apply it to your life and to helping others? Problems & Procedures is Class II and is being offered to our church family as a part of the Community of Grace Biblical Counseling Ministry. Problems & Procedures requirements are that the student does some level of homework and all students will be involved in developing and giving a presentation in class on a particular counseling issue. Preferred (but not required) prerequisites for this class are one of the following: Completion of the Introduction to Biblical Counseling class taught by Pastor Blake Shaw (Fall semester, 2011 or MBC class); or Track One at Faith Baptist Church in Lafayette; or completion of two-year counseling training courses here at Grace under the teaching of Dr. Rick Thomas (several years ago); or another approved Biblical Counseling training course from a NANC certified teacher (see Pastor Blake for approval). Two classes will be held:

**"Problems and Procedures"** with Pastor Blake Shaw (Sundays, 10:45am-11:55am, starting January 15, in the Fireside Room).

**"Problems and Procedures"** with Pastor Blake Shaw (Wednesdays, 6:30pm-8:00pm, starting January 18, in the Fireside Room).

**COMMUNITY OF GRACE  
BIBLICAL COUNSELING MINISTRY**  
Edition #4 — December 2011

# The Elusive

**By Pastor Blake Shaw**

“All I want is some peace,” said Dave, the 44 year old man at the other end of the phone. “I go to work and there is conflict between co-workers and me. I come home and my wife and I argue and argue. And the kids---there’s just chaos in their lives.

Or so it seems. Everyday there is some trauma. All I want is a day of peace. And then we go to church just to be reminded of the conflict that is badgering away at this once-large and fast growing church we attend. I am not sure I can handle this much longer.”

So goes the opening of a long distance phone conversation. Dave wants peace. He wants it desperately. Who can blame him, huh? But this peace he so intensely craves seems to be elusive. Just when Dave thinks that perhaps he may get a moment of reprieve from the conflict, the chaos, the tension, and the trauma, like a greased pig, it slips away from his grasp. Dave wants peace. My guess is: So do you. I know I do. For Dave, his job as manager of a sporting good store and his four kids, ages 9, 12, 15, and 17, as well as a very tired wife all provide ample opportunities for him to step into the midst of a world that is anything but peaceful.

To understand the issue of peace, perhaps we should start with a definition. The meaning of the Greek word that is translated “peace” means to have harmonious relationships; rest; and the sense of rest and contentment”. Interestingly enough Webster defines “peace” as a “state of tranquility or quiet; a state of security or order within a community; freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions.” Looking at these various elements of the definition, we have an idea of what Dave truly desires. Something tells me that you and I long for the same thing. Peace, it is a fascinating thing. Our world seems to crave it. But take a cursory glance at a newspaper and you will see evidence ad-nauseum that we are far from a world at peace. For so many, like Dave, the problem of world peace is the furthest thing from their mind. They wonder about peace in their marriage, their family, their place of employment, their community, and their church. Peace is absent for so many. But why, we might ask. Think this through: As Christians we have placed our faith in the Prince of Peace; As Christians we are told that because we are justified we have peace with God (Romans 5:1); As Christians we are told that if we pray, that is, if we let our requests be made known to God, coupled with thanksgiving, that the peace of God will guard our hearts and minds (Philippians 4:6-7). We are told that the peacemaker is one who is blessed (Matthew 5:9), that it is indeed a good thing to dwell together with others in unity (Psalm 133:1). And we are told that the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, etc. (James 3). It seems quite clear. Peace should characterize our lives. So why doesn’t it? My friend Dave would tell you that he prays, in fact, he prays often throughout the day. So why is there no or very little peace? Why is there so little peace taking place internally for Dave? Why is there so little peace externally for Dave?

Perhaps the starting point for any of us as we wonder about the lack of peace is to ask the question: “What is our relationship with the Prince of Peace truly like?” We began our relationship with Jesus Christ by faith, and so, we are told that we are to live by faith for that is what the righteous do (Romans 1:17). In fact, without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). We are to walk in faith (Colossians 2:6). This life of faith and the relationship with the Prince of Peace begins where self-dependence end. And therein is the issue. Perhaps for Dave, and for us, the thing called peace is elusive because we have not come to the end of ourselves. Perhaps we are striving to control the circumstances of life, not so that “Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,” but, “My will be done, on earth as it is in our *own mind*.”

Ponder this: Dave lives a life, guided by his will, but far removed from a concern about God’s will. He wants peace. He wants rest. He wants ease and comfort, totally removed from anything that might bring about the discomfort of conflict. Perhaps he has become demanding as he manages his store. Or perhaps he returns to his home with the quiet, or not so quiet, expectations that he is coming to a place of refuge. Within his heart he longs for rest, relaxation, and ease. Standing in the way of such desires is a tired wife and four kids, all shot through with the same type of spiritual disease that grips their husband and their dad. Perhaps the situations Dave experiences in life are actually developing opportunities. No, it’s not an opportunity for Dave to vent his feelings, or to lash out in anger and to crush the spirit of those around him. But yes, these conflicts are an opportunity. Conflict affords Dave (and you and me) the opportunity to glorify our Lord. Conflicts are the situations of life where one’s real character is truly exposed. In the midst of conflict his character, his dreams, his cravings, his desires, and what is happening in Dave’s heart are all laid out in the open. So Dave has to ask himself some questions: What are my pursuits, cravings, lusts, demands, self-defined rights, self-determined needs? Perhaps through all of the chaos, trauma, demands, conflict, and tensions, God is exposing Dave to what is really going on in the recesses of his heart.

Peace is elusive, for Dave and for us, often because we are running on our own agenda. But God is good. He slowly and methodically, puts us in situations and circumstances that force us to ask, “How am I really doing in my relationship with the Prince of Peace?” We would do well to ask this question as we celebrate the birth of this Prince. As we search for peace we would do well to ask ourselves if we are living on our own agenda or the agenda of the Prince of Peace.

*Perhaps the starting point for any of us as we wonder about the lack of peace is to ask the question: “What is our relationship with the Prince of Peace truly like?”*

## Meet a Counselor

(Periodically we will introduce you to one of the persons who is involved in our counseling ministry here at Grace Bible Church. This month we feature Mrs. Pam Gannon.)

I was raised in a Christian home, and remember being aware of God even at a young age but it would be several years before I accepted His gracious gift of salvation.

Because my father was a Chaplain in the USAF, my family moved frequently during my childhood years. During each upheaval, I found myself turning to peers and the world system for comfort and companionship, rather than to the all sufficient Christ. Then as an 11 year old, I experienced sexual abuse by a relative. Though I knew about God, I rejected Him during this time and entered into a period of fairly severe rebellion. While I remained outwardly compliant, in my heart I was a complete rebel. Through the next several years, I secretly indulged in drugs, alcohol, and sex. Finally, I left home (which was in Okinawa at the time) at age 16. I traveled ½ way around the world to attend a Christian college in Michigan. It felt like I had escaped from the oppressive parental religiosity. But God was working.

That first year at college was very difficult, not only academically, but personally. I was not yet a Christian, and I had a non-Christian fiancé'. He lived in a poor section of the city where his neighbor was a violent-tempered man who harassed us continually with verbal outbursts and threats. Finally one day when I was in my fiancé's tiny apartment alone, this man came to the door with a gun in his hand. He pointed it at me, then turned the gun on himself and shot himself in the head. This incident was 'the last straw' in my stress filled existence. I realized that I could not pridefully go on thinking I was able to handle life on my own terms. God had brought me to the end of myself. I don't even remember what happened next, but I remember being back in my dorm room and crying out to the God I wasn't sure really existed. When I did, I discovered that not only was He real, He was loving and full of grace for the broken and contrite of heart. In all those years of clinging to worthless idols, I had forfeited the grace that could be mine, but when I relinquished those idols to surrender to Him, I found life! And as a perfect Father, He knew exactly what suffering it would take to work in me that which He desired. I began to pray and read the Bible. That summer I went home and formally committed my life to the Lord in August, 1976.

*I am so thankful that God has given me a ministry of helping others, (as I have been helped) using His all sufficient Word, to skillfully navigate the maze of sin and suffering of this life, toward the goal of solving problems, restoring joyful fellowship with Christ and bringing glory to His name! Amazing Grace! To Him alone be the glory.*

That was a little over 35 years ago now. Many things have happened in those years, some joyful and some sorrowful. I have imperfectly followed my Shepherd. I have again clung to worthless idols and forfeited grace. Yet the Lord has continued to lead and

guide this sometimes wayward sheep for His purpose.

In the late 1990's, my husband Dan and I took a class at GBC called "Intro to Biblical Counseling." It was the first class of its kind offered at Grace, by a much younger Pastor Blake. Through that teaching, God opened our eyes to practical theology, that is, how to apply Scripture to the heart sins and suffering that we all struggle with. As we applied the principles from God's Word to our own lives, our marriage and parenting changed to be more pleasing to the Lord. I began reading all that I could about Biblical (nouthetic) counseling. We began attending the annual week-long Biblical Counseling Training Conferences hosted by Faith Church in Lafayette, Indiana, where they have had a Biblical counseling ministry for over 30 years that serves both their members and their community with free counseling. That was such a helpful and encouraging time for Dan and I that we began inviting others to join us. Now over 100 members of Grace have enjoyed those conferences with us. If Biblical counseling interests you...if you love God, love people and love His Word...I would encourage you to go as well!

This fall, I completed a Master's in Biblical Counseling from the seminary affiliated with Faith, which will be useful as we work to organize and formalize the Biblical counseling ministry here at Grace. I am so thankful that God has given me a ministry of helping others, (as I have been helped) using His all sufficient Word, to skillfully navigate the maze of sin and suffering of this life, toward the goal of solving problems, restoring joyful fellowship with Christ and bringing glory to His name! Amazing Grace! To Him alone be the glory.



### COMMUNITY OF GRACE TRAINING

(Winter/Spring Semester)

Do you want to learn more about Biblical Counseling and how God's Word speaks to all counseling issues? Do you want to understand more fully how you can take God's Word and apply it to your life and to helping others? Problems and Procedures is Class II and is being offered to our church family as a part of the Community of Grace Biblical Counseling Ministry. Problems and Procedures requirements are that the student does some level of homework and all students will be involved in developing and giving a presentation in class on a particular counseling issue. **Preferred-but not required Prerequisites**-for this class are one of the following: Introduction to Biblical Counseling class taught by Pastor Blake Shaw (Fall semester, 2011 or MBC class); or Track One at Faith Baptist Church in Lafayette; or Completion of two-year counseling training courses here at Grace under the teaching of Dr. Rick Thomas (several years ago); or another approved Biblical Counseling training course from a NANC certified teacher (see Pastor Blake for approval). Two classes will be held: 1) Sunday mornings, 10:45 to 11:50 in the Fireside Room, and 2) Wednesday evenings 6:30 to 8:00 in the Fireside Room. Class begins Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. The first Wednesday class begins Janu-

**Q:** CHRISTOLOGY: Why did Christ die?

**A:** The reason Christ died can be summed up by saying that Christ died for God and Christ died for mankind. Ultimately, Christ died for the glory and exaltation of the Godhead. On the night before Jesus' death He prayed to His Father in reference to His upcoming death, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You." (John 17:1) The Greek word translated "glorify" in this passage is *doxazō* from the root word *dóxa*, meaning glory. The *dóxa* of God is the "revelation and manifestation of all that He has and is" (Zodhiates, 1992, p. 907). The death of Jesus manifested the totality of the personhood of God. A few of the attributes that Christ's death manifested are: God's love (Romans 5:8; I John 4:10), God's wrath (Matthew 27:46; Galatians 3:13), God's mercy (Ephesians 2:4), God's grace (Ephesians 1:7-8, 2:5, 7-8), God's justice (Romans 3:26), God's righteousness (Romans 3:25), and God's power (Ephesians 1:19-20). Truly the Godhead was displayed in magnificent glory through the death of Jesus Christ.

Furthermore, Christ died for the sake of mankind. Mankind became estranged from God when Adam and Eve sinned against Him in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-24). From that time, "death spread to all men, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12). Scripture records that in this sinful state mankind is: dead in sin (Ephesians 2:1, 5); an object of God's wrath (Ephesians 2:3); an enemy of God (Romans 5:10); a slave to sin (Romans 6:17); and alienated from God (Ephesians 4:18). Since God is righteous, just and wrathful against sin, He must punish sin with death (Romans 1:18, 3:25-26, 6:23a). Thus, the sinful state of mankind results in "everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord," for those "who do not know God" and who "do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Matthew 25:46; II Thessalonians 1:8-10). Yet, God, because He is merciful and loving, ordained that Christ bear the punishment for sin; Christ would be the One to die (Ephesians 2:4-6).

We learn in Scripture that sin must be covered by blood. The book of Leviticus quotes the words of the LORD to Moses, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; *for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul*" (Leviticus 17:11, emphasis added). Further, Hebrews 9:22 states that, "without [the] shedding of blood there is no remission [of sins]." On the night before Jesus' death He symbolized His upcoming death with a cup of wine. He gave the cup to His disciples and said, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood... which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:27-28). The next day, His blood was shed through the wounds in His hands, feet, head, back, and side; and He died.

Scripture teaches what Jesus' bloody death accomplished for the sake of mankind. Mankind, through Jesus' blood, can obtain:

- 1) Justification- "Having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him" (Romans 5:9).
- 2) Redemption- "You have redeemed us to God by Your blood" (Revelation 5:9). "You were... redeemed with... the precious blood of Christ" (I Peter 1:19). "With His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption" (Hebrews 9:12).
- 3) Reconciliation- "And by [Jesus] to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him... having made peace through the blood of His cross" (Colossians 1:20). "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been made near by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13). "Therefore, brethren having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus" (Hebrews 10:19).
- 4) Forgiveness- "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins" (Ephesians 1:7). "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (I John 1:7b). "[He] loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood" (Revelations 1:5).
- 5) Sanctification- "Jesus... that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate" (Hebrews 13:12).

**References:**

Zodhiates, S. (1992).

*The Complete Word Study New Testament*. AGM Publishers, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

