

Freedom FOCUS

NEWSLETTER

“...to turn them
from darkness
to light...”

March—April 2008

www.indianabcc.com

Overcoming the Enemies of the Family (Part 1)

Our families are in a war and the battle rages on three fronts. Dr. Mark Bubeck, author of the book, *The Adversary*, and founder of ICBC refers to our three enemies in this way: “the **world** is our external enemy, the **flesh** is the internal enemy, and the **Devil** is the infernal enemy.”

I define the world as, “*a shared set of beliefs with certain unbiblical philosophies that drive a culture.*” These unbiblical philosophies can greatly impact our worldview. Many times these beliefs go totally unquestioned by those who live in them. I believe that Satan can be very effective in trying to influence a person’s worldview in the following three ways.

- To keep them ignorant of the truth.
- To get them to question their faith in the truth.
- To distort the truth regarding their view of God, view of man, view of knowledge and view of ethics.

The Apostle Paul gives a word of warning regarding our battle with the world in Colossians 2:6-8: “*Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ*” (emphasis added).

The Greek word “*philosophia*” in this text refers to a specific religious heresy; one attempting to combine

Christian teachings with other teachings from the non-Christian, secular culture of its day. In the church at Colosse, Paul was dealing with evil supernaturalism, and such a philosophy was influencing the belief system of many Colossian believers.

Today humanistic philosophies continue to bring an unbiblical influence in our modern culture. These worldly ideas also penetrate into the Christian home. Sadly, I see families succumbing to these humanistic philosophies, without questioning them in the light of Scripture.

The enemy is using three central humanistic postmodern philosophies today to lead many astray from the truth; they are *religious relativism, tolerance, and philosophical pluralism.*

Religious relativism asserts that *we all worship the same God; we just refer to Him by different titles. Tolerance* insists that *we value the views and practices of others to the degree we value our own. Philosophical pluralism* continues to gain momentum with its assertion of *the denial of absolute truth.*

Philosophical pluralism is summed up in the belief that *any particular ideology’s or religion’s “claim to be intrinsically superior to another one is necessarily wrong.”*

We see this pluralism in the words of a recent presidential candidate who said during a debate last fall, “I believe abortion is wrong. I think it is morally wrong. And if I was asked my advice by someone who was considering an abortion, I would tell them not to have the abortion, to have the child, and if nothing else, the adoption option exists.”

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Testimonies from Changed Lives

“Thanks for making a difference in the lives of wounded souls. Your ministry is needed in the church to help those who need healing to experience the joy we were created to experience. Thanks for helping me to understand my wound and giving me hope for the future. God bless you!”

“I want to thank you for the time you invested with me and my wife. Your counsel was of



great benefit to help me realize how much Christ loves me and how much my wife loves me as well. The Lord used your counsel to bring great healing and encouragement to me, and I am grateful for the ministry of the Holy Spirit to bring such comfort. We returned refreshed to the refining fires of circumstances at home which continue to be difficult, but the strengthening we have received has been of great benefit. I am grateful to the Lord for your ministry to us. You are in my prayers that you can continue to be fruitful in counseling others.”

Overcoming the Enemies of the Family (Part 1) , cont'.

This candidate went on to say that “in a country like ours, where people of good faith, people who are equally decent, equally moral, and equally religious, where they come to different conclusions...I believe you have to respect their viewpoint.... I would grant women the right to make that choice to have an abortion.”

How do we overcome the world? Romans chapter twelve and verse two exhorts us, “*Do not be conformed to this world* (i.e. squeezed into the world’s mold), *but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God....*”

I have appreciated the advice of author and speaker Dr. Voddie Baucham in his book *Family Driven Faith*: “A proper understanding of biblical love is the foundation upon which a child’s spiritual life is built. However,

that foundation is only the first step. If biblical love is the foundation, a biblical worldview is the frame. It is imperative that we prepare children to think biblically.”

A parent who takes the time to teach their children a theistic view of God, a proper view of man, biblical truth as absolute, the knowledge of God as supreme over others, and the absolute ethics that are derived from Scripture instead of the moral standards defined by our culture, will go a long way to helping their children overcome.

Rev. Jeff Pokone

For more information on this subject, we invite you to download Rev. Pokone’s message entitled, *Overcoming the Three Enemies of the Family (Part 1)*, available at www.indianabcc.com/family_series.htm.

Upcoming Counseling Training

The Indiana Biblical Counseling Center is offering a one-day seminar in effective counseling ministry on Saturday, June 21st. This one-day seminar is designed to equip those with a heart for discipleship ministry with practical tools they can use in their own local church or individual ministry. Make plans to attend.

Date: Saturday, June 21—8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Cost

\$89 per individual*

\$149 per couple*

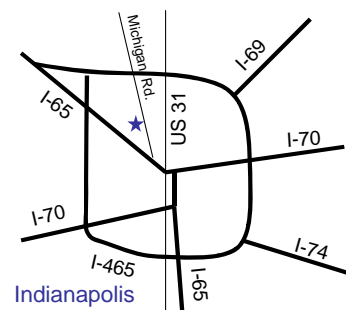
*Lunch and materials included

Who Should Attend

Anyone already active in or interested in pursuing discipleship counseling ministry will greatly benefit from this seminar!

Location:

Second Reformed
Presbyterian Church
4800 N. Michigan Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46228



Resource Review—Reclaiming Surrendered Ground



In Ephesians 4:27, the Apostle Paul gives us this very clear directive: “*Neither give place to the devil,*” thus indicating the real possibility of doing so. Many believers today live their lives unaware of the reality of a lurking enemy and how they can make themselves vulnerable to his evil devices.

Counselor and speaker, Dr. Jim Logan has done an outstanding job outlining the reality of the devil and his agenda to gain the advantage in our lives through occult bondage, bitterness, anger, unconfessed sin, rebellion, pride, and immorality, in his book, *Reclaiming Surrendered Ground*. The devil and his demonic hosts are masters at luring us with temptations customized to our individual lusts and weaknesses.

Just as important as identifying the reality and agenda of our common enemy, Dr Logan also gives practical Bible

help on how to resist the devil, expounding on the armor of God and how to use it effectively, not only in a *defensive* position of protecting ourselves from the enemy’s fiery darts, but also in an *offensive* position where we wield powerful blows against the enemy using intercessory prayer and specific Scriptures relevant to our battle.

Ultimately, the battle against this enemy is a battle to be fought in the mind, for our enemy is not one of flesh and blood. The devil gains the advantage when we listen to his whispering voice calling our name, tempting and accusing us in the secret confines of our minds. For this reason, renewing our minds with the Word and using temptation as a launch pad for conversation with God is critical to winning.

Today, perhaps more than ever before, individuals, marriages, and families are under attack. Prepare yourself to win by reading this practical handbook, *Reclaiming Surrendered Ground*, available through our office for \$12.00.