

# Freedom FOCUS

July—August 2008

NEWSLETTER

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

www.indianabcc.com

## Overcoming the Enemies of the Family (Part 2)



One constant enemy we all struggle with is the flesh. Our flesh is selfish to the core. In Galatians 5:13-16, Paul writes, “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: **‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’** But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”

The New Testament uses the term *flesh* (Greek—*sarx*) to describe the “internal programming” of the person as oriented away from God through either licentiousness or legalism (Romans 8:13,14; Galatians 5:13).

I define the flesh as “existence apart from God—the part of our being that is choosing and operating apart from God by allowing of our fleshly desires to rule our lives.” The flesh is self-reliant rather than God-dependent. The flesh is focused on self instead of being focused on others, and what Christ desires. Our flesh will sin. Our flesh is at the heart of many marriage and family troubles.

Paul is also careful in Galatians 3:1-3 to include legalism as a religious

manifestation of the same enemy the flesh. He writes, “O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?”

***It is Satan’s goal to keep you walking in the flesh, to have you reason in the flesh, and to get you to respond in the flesh.***

To overcome the flesh, it is important to understand that the flesh is not the “real” me. The “real” me is defined in 2 Corinthians 5:17 as the new creation in Christ. According to Ezekiel 36:26, the “real” me is referred to as the heart of flesh that replaced my old heart of stone. In Romans 7:12-20, speaking of his own battle with the flesh, Paul makes this distinction: “For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh”.

We must understand that victory over the flesh comes through the exchanged life we have in Christ. Romans 8:10-13—“But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Je-

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## Financial Need

We here at the Indiana Biblical Counseling Center count it a privilege to serve so many without having to charge hourly rates. However we have seen a reduction in the frequency and amount of donations that we receive. We understand that the gas prices and the economic downturn is having a big impact on many that are supporting this ministry. We would ask that you pray for God’s provision for this ministry especially during the slow giving months of the summer and early fall. God Bless you!

### IBCC Fall Praise Banquet

**Mark your calendar now for our 2008 Fall Praise Banquet.** This is always a great opportunity to share first-hand what God is doing in the lives of individuals through this ministry!

**Date:**

Friday, November 14

**Time:**

7:00 p.m.

**Location:**

Indianapolis Training Center  
2820 N. Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

## Overcoming the Enemies of the Family (Part 2 cont.)

*us from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”*

Paul describes this exchange in Ephesians 4:20-24 by exhorting us *“to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”*

The exchanged life is how we live out of our new identity in Christ. Our relationship in Christ radically transforms us as we die to ourselves and appropriate these truths..

- We substitute Christ’s life for the self life (Colossians 3:10).
- We affirm our position with Christ as one with Him in His crucifixion, burial, resurrection and ascension (Galatians 2:20).

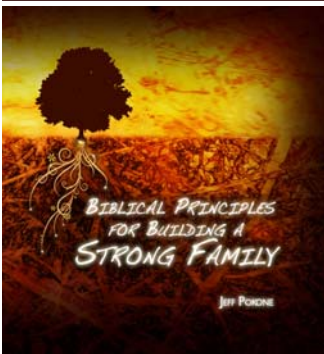
- We affirm our legal standing with Christ as free from the law of sin and of death through the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:2).
- We present ourselves to God as people who are alive from the dead (Romans 8: 6-13).
- We yield to God in brokenness and unconditional surrender (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

The basis of our salvation is also the origin of the exchanged life—through God’s grace (Galatians 3:1-3) working in our lives. Victory over the flesh is not something to be gained through religious performance and effort. Only Christ Himself can live the Christian life, and He desires to do this in and through us as we abide in Him (John 15:1-8).

*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 2)*, available at [www.indianabcc.com/family\\_series.htm](http://www.indianabcc.com/family_series.htm).

## Audio Series—Biblical Principles for Building a Strong Family



**E**very civilization rises and falls on the spiritual and moral strength of the home. Thus, building strong families is paramount to the success of a nation.

Rev. Jeff Pokone has just completed a series of 21 messages addressing key principles for building a strong

family. This series is now available in a 22-CD set that also includes notes in digital format that correspond with each audio session. The set is available through the IBCC office for \$40.00 (cost for tax, shipping and handling is included).

To preview this series of messages free of charge, we invite you to visit us online at [www.indianabcc.com](http://www.indianabcc.com) and follow the links We hope the information here will begin to give you the direction you need as you seek to build a home that will stand.

## Testimonies from Changed Lives

*“Words cannot express my gratitude. You have given me the path to freedom. Thank you seems to be such a small statement compared to what you have helped us accomplish this week. Our goal was to help me get past an eating problem. We succeeded in that and so much more. We have dedicated our lives to serving God and are thankful to you for helping us win this battle in the first war for us against Satan. We know there are more battles to fight, and we accept the challenge. You are an inspiration and a blessing. You are more than we could have hoped for. God brought us together to win*

*this battle and to prepare us for our new lives in Christ. Thank you!”*

*Couple from Wisconsin*

*“Thank you so much for giving of your time to come teach us. I have enjoyed the week and have been blessed. The Lord has shown me many things about myself, along with ways to help others come to freedom in Christ. One of the things that meant a lot to me was seeing God’s delight in me. And as I learn to understand this, it will in turn reach others. Thank you again for letting God use you.”*

*Lady from Indiana*