

“Have I now become your enemy because I tell you the truth?”

Galatians 4:16



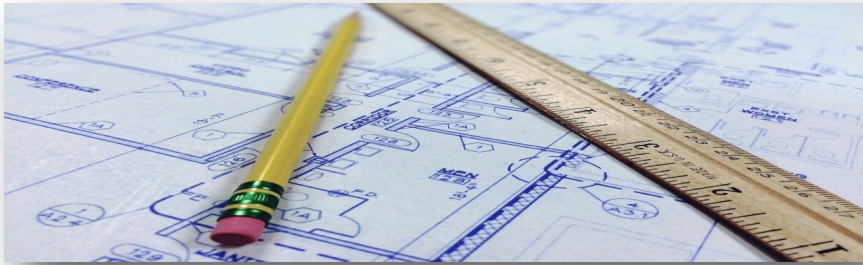
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BLUEPRINTS

Reflecting God's Image Outside of Eden

August 2023





Blueprints

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Blueprints offers a bold message of original intent, which is that plan, purpose, and design God has inscribed into the heart of His men and women.

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your incredibly naive child to stay aware of their surroundings. Personally, I'd work to find more appropriate clothes whatever it took, but I understand that isn't something everyone sees the same.

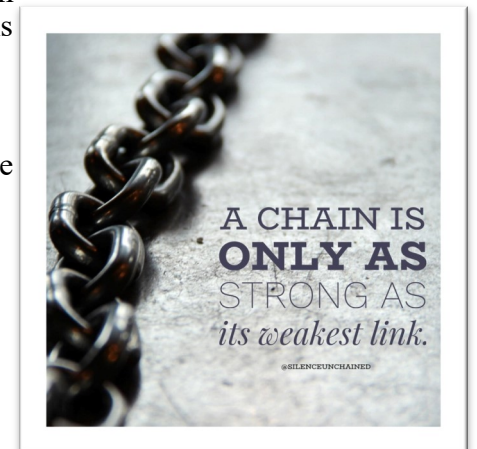
Sex is sold and offered in everything these days from cereal commercials to books in school; it is hard to avoid and even harder to shelter children from. Everything on TV is designed to program children to think about sex, sexuality, and sexual things. It has grown incredibly difficult to protect kids from it all. But it all starts so innocent and what seems small can open an entire can of worms that you can never come back from. We are not exempt here. In fact see below.

“The United States ranks as one of the worst countries in the world for human trafficking, with an estimated 199,000 incidents occurring annually.” (Deliverfund.org)

I am not trying to be that person that is so staunchly aware they forget how to have a good time and just let kids be kids, but I am here to tell you this world is incredibly dark and sometimes being the light means taking the role of the less fun one in order to keep everyone else onboard safe and alive.

There are many things we can do to bring the largest slave trade in the world to an end, but the greatest thing we can do right now is expose it, make others aware, and look out for each other. The devil hides in the detail of everything in life. Don't miss the warnings from God waiting on specific signs in the world.

Be vigilant. Be blessed. ❤️ ✚



A Sexualized World

Brittany Gray

After watching *Sound of Freedom* I've had several flashbacks that have been difficult to shake. Like the time I was modeling, roughly 18. While at a photo shoot, some guys put a roofie in my drink. I didn't know it happened, but two other young girls who never met me before, they noticed. I was apparently asleep a little later and the girls got me to go home with them. To this day, I can't picture or remember this event. But I do remember waking up the next morning in a unknown home, wondering where I was.



I could have been abducted and sold into the sex slave trade. Yes, it's that quick and that simple to disappear. An innocent girl with a huge dream of fame ahead of her one minute and someone's leashed lap candy in another state or even country the next. That isn't my only encounter, but definitely one that comes to mind. It is truly triggering to think of the amount of times "it could have been me" and because of that I know God has given me a huge heart to speak out and raise awareness on this insanely prevalent issue of America and globally. I know I'm not alone though. It could happen to any of us, anywhere, anytime.

Did you know Charlottesville has its own sex trafficking investigative unit? While being one of the top places to live in the country comes with its perks, it comes with its pervers and perpetrators too. As I walked around the beach this weekend for the holiday, I saw girls as young as 12 in swim thongs and hanging all over boys. How do I know their age? Because I know their parents. Now, I know they're just having fun and we were all kids once, but when we know better, we do better. Also please know, it is holidays such as this one that children go missing the most.

I'm not judging when I say - please be careful and teach

Blueprints For Living Ministries, Inc. was birthed out of a preaching firestorm that occurred in "God's Country" (aka Hondo, TX) in 2011. Led by Jason Cole and Ruben Constante, Jr., this preaching revival stirred hundreds of men to seek God's will and purpose for their lives.

Two years later, Ruben created this ministry's newsletter, called Blueprints, which would become its first outreach platform.

By 2015, Ruben finalized this ministry's current curriculum, which is neatly organized into five blueprints (see "Ministries"). During those four years, God had initiated Ruben through a rigorous testing and refining process, which placed him in several crises of faith. These trial periods became pivotal moments in which he learned to cultivate God's design for his life (see "Ruben's Story").

Blueprints For Living Ministries, Inc. now stands as a clear voice in a world that has erased and redefined God's blueprint for humanity. What began as a few sermons from behind a prison pulpit is now a team of dedicated men who are driven to impart spiritual and secular education that promotes positive change and personal growth and development.

It is a call for a return to original intent.



Five Blueprints For Living

1. The Blueprint of God's Image
2. The Blueprint of Gender Design
3. The Blueprint of Marriage
4. The Blueprint of the Church
5. The Blueprint of Discipleship

Because Blueprints For Living Ministries, Inc. is dedicated to standing on and proclaiming God's original intent for life, we center our worldview on the only standard which reveals original intent: the Holy Bible.

Aside from affirming the Nicene and Apostle's creed, we adhere to the Reformed positions of the Christian faith, those doctrines which the reformers believed were central to Christianity. We stand alongside Martin Luther, who boldly refused to recant the clear teachings of Scripture. Therefore, we stand on the Five *Solas* of the Protestant Reformation:

1. Sola Scriptura ("Scripture alone"): The Bible is our highest authority.
2. Sola Fide ("faith alone"): We are saved through faith alone in Christ Jesus.
3. Sola Gratia ("grace alone"): We are saved by the grace of God alone.
4. Solus Christus ("Christ alone"): Jesus Christ alone is our Lord, Savior, and King.
5. Soli Deo Gloria ("to the glory of God alone"): We live for the glory of God alone.

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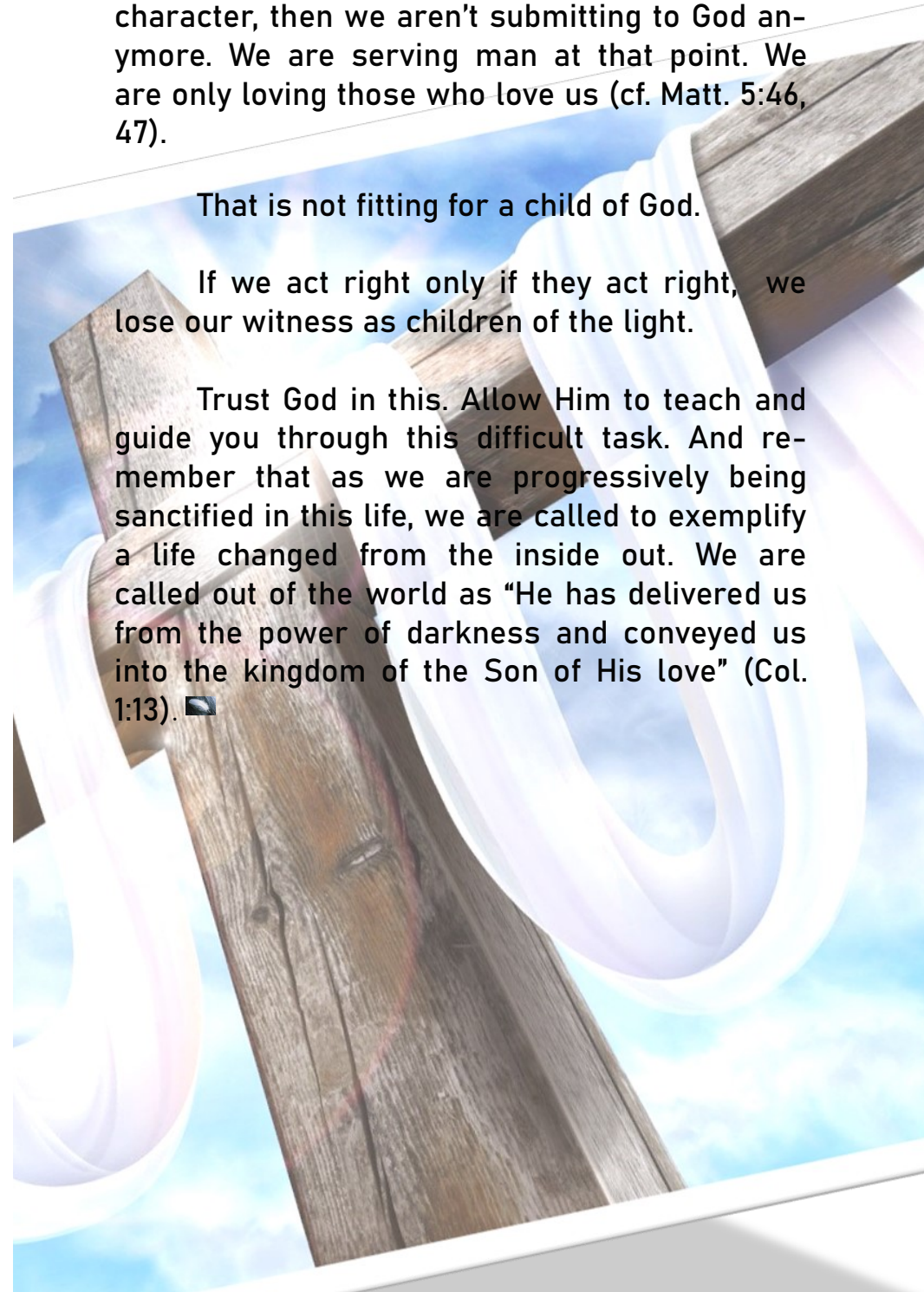


thorities contingent upon the authority's moral character, then we aren't submitting to God anymore. We are serving man at that point. We are only loving those who love us (cf. Matt. 5:46, 47).

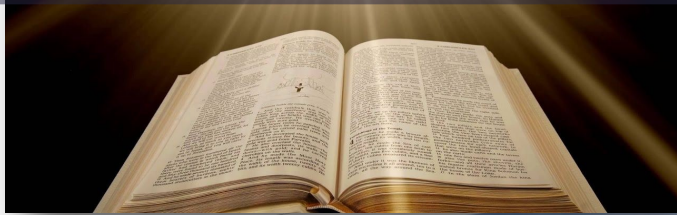
That is not fitting for a child of God.

If we act right only if they act right, we lose our witness as children of the light.

Trust God in this. Allow Him to teach and guide you through this difficult task. And remember that as we are progressively being sanctified in this life, we are called to exemplify a life changed from the inside out. We are called out of the world as "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love" (Col. 1:13). ■



Cross Counsel



Q. How am I supposed to submit to the authorities when they are so corrupt?

A. The Christian's duty to submit to governing authorities has nothing to do with whether those authorities are submitted to God themselves. In few exceptions are we to resist governing authorities (i.e., when they ask us to violate the Word), but Scripture doesn't tell us to submit to authority only if they are submitted themselves.

We submit because we are children of the one true King. Our responsibility is to honor the Word and reflect God's image. Jesus suffered immensely under the persecution He endured at the hands of a cruel and unjust religious and political system. Same with Paul. They submitted because their allegiance was to God not the government.

When we make submission to governing au-



From the Desk of Ruben

Sometimes it seems like our best isn't enough.

Like no matter how hard we try or how much we want to become better, we just can't seem to get it right. But before we fall too far into a hole of darkness and feel like giving up, let's remember that the great apostle Paul went through the same things we do. He said, "For the what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do" (Rom. 7:15).

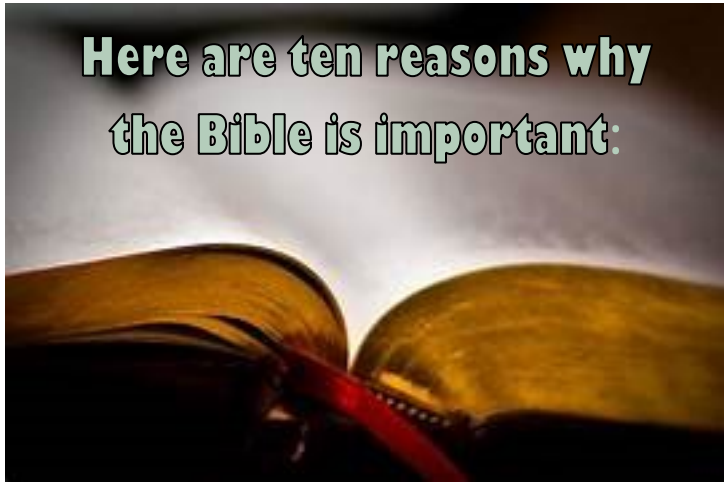
Sounds like Paul was battling some personal issues that kept his sins an ever-present reality in his life. Like no matter how much he preached the Gospel and planted churches, he couldn't get rid of certain sins.

Well, that's us! We will always battle things within us that are stubbornly stuck to our souls. But the good news is that "there is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1). We will struggle all our days here on earth, but we are secure in Jesus. So press forward, dear Christian. The best is yet to come!



Ruben Constante Jr.

Here are ten reasons why the Bible is important:



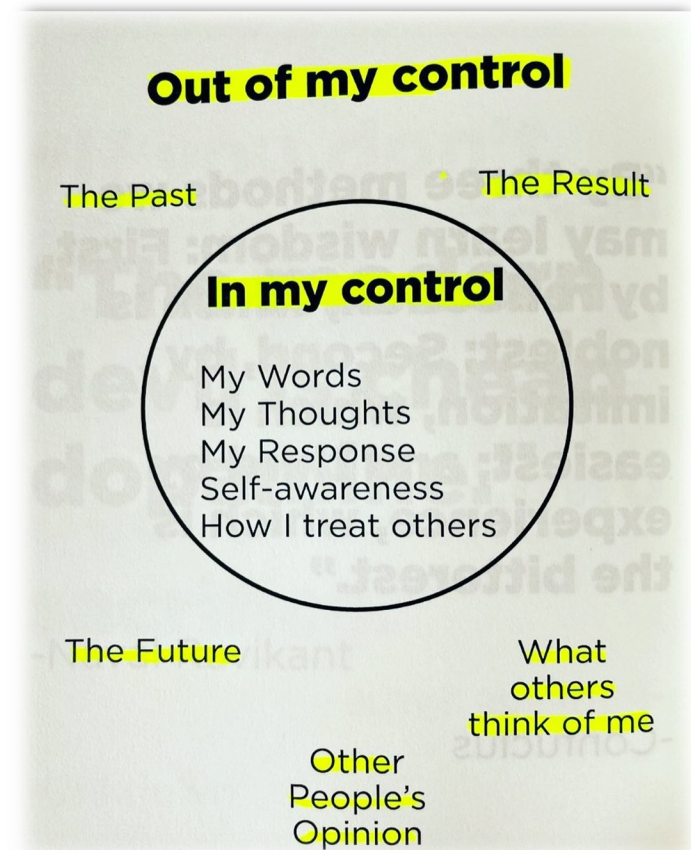
1. The Bible points us to God.
2. The Bible keeps us anchored in ageless truth.
3. The Bible is the foundation of our faith.
4. The Bible connects us with our past and points us to our future.
5. The Bible informs our practices, directs our actions, and guides our life.
6. The Bible protects us from wrong teaching.
7. The Bible is God's written word to us, complementing God's spoken word through the Holy Spirit.
8. The Bible keeps us from trying to create God in our own image.
9. The Bible protects us from turning faith into whatever we want it to be.
10. Reading and studying the Bible is an act of worship.

God created us with dominion.

We were created to rule.

But when we aren't surrendered to the Lord, we can't help but turn dominion into domination. We can't help but become mindless slaves to sin whereby we hurt everything and everybody who gets in our way to dominate as many things and people as we can.

Get control of yourself by focusing on what you're *supposed* to control.





THE PRINCIPLES OF HERMENEUTICS

How To Correctly Interpret the Bible

1. Scripture Interprets Scripture

Often Scripture interprets itself. In some instances, another biblical writer interprets another biblical passage.

2. Context Interprets Scripture

The surrounding verses, chapter, and book of the Bible provide immediate context to any Bible verse, as does the historical, cultural, and linguistic context of the verse.

3. Intent Interprets Scripture

All Scripture has an intended meaning. It is, therefore, true that a scripture has one correct interpretation while it may have many correct applications.

4. The Clear Interprets the Obscure

No verse of Scripture should be interpreted to contradict the overall message of Scripture. When we are faced with an obscure verse, we find a clear verse to help interpret it.



Troubled by TRUTH

by Ruben Constante, Jr.

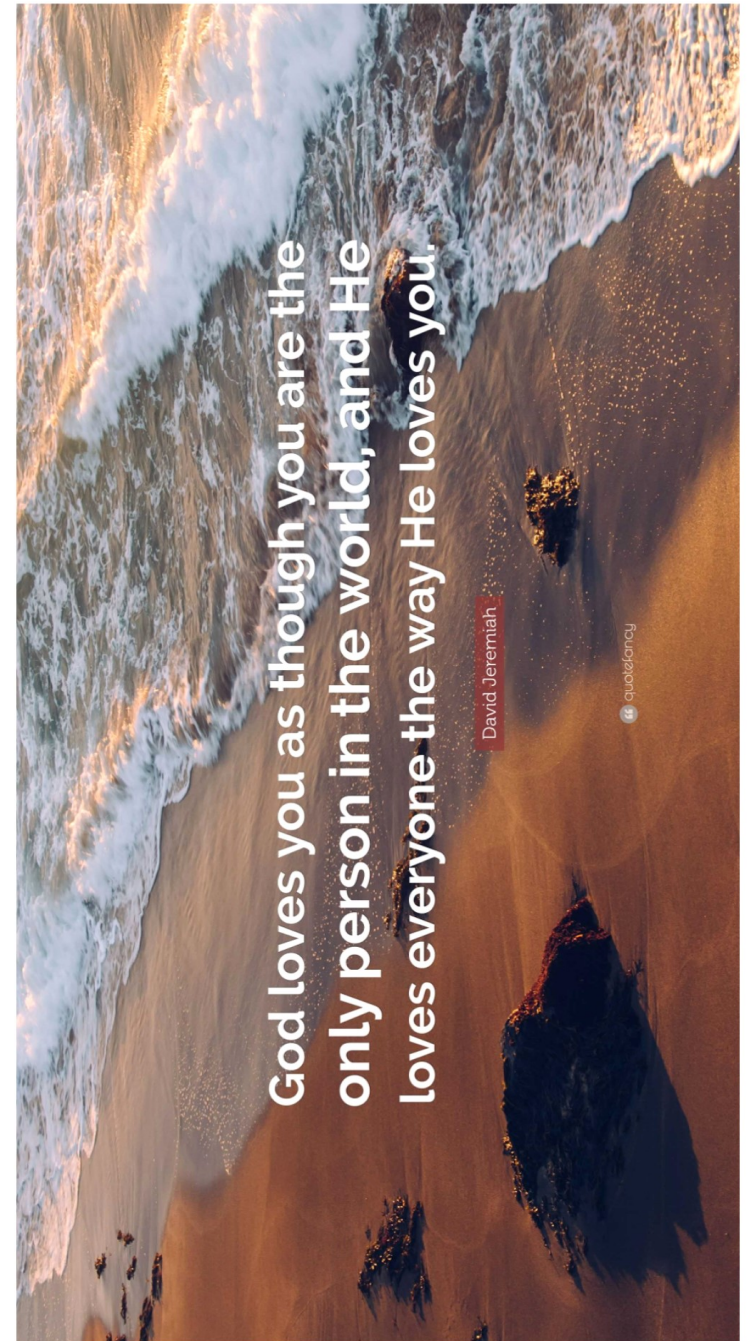
Ever notice that when you speak a moral truth, you get in trouble?

Well, that isn't anything new. For thousands of years, it has been this way. When you do something right, those who do wrong will put you out in any way they can, and they do so in various ways—especially by murdering you.

Just look at what Cain did to Abel.

This is what the Enemy of our souls does. He hates Truth, so he does all he can to silence it, suppress it, and shun it. He was, as our Lord Jesus had rightly noted, “a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him” (Jn. 8:44). What is especially interesting in that passage is how Jesus describes how lies and murder are connected. The “father of lies” was a “murderer from the beginning.”

Lies always seek to kill Truth.



Being *Loved* Just as You Are

Penny Constante

I find it a little ironic that every physical trait I passed onto my children I absolutely adore in them, but I do not like it in me.

I imagine that God loves me the way I love my children. We are made in His image, and He is our Father, and we are His sons and daughters.

Believing that I am loved just the way I was created helps me get one step closer to loving myself the way I know I should. We all have value and worth and are loved by our Creator, our Father in heaven.

And I believe that our precious and innocent children love us in a similar way that we love them. They don't care about our physical traits and appearances. They love us because we guide, protect, and edify them. They know they are loved.

And, I, too, am loved just the way I am.



Elijah knew this. He was coined by the wicked King Ahab “troubler of Israel” (1 Kings 18:17), but he went in the power of the Lord anyway to confront him who faltered “between two opinions” (1 Kings 18:21). Now, let me pause for a minute here and provide you with a quick look what “opinions” meant for Elijah and Ahab. The Hebrew word means *disquieted thoughts, troubled thoughts; division, divided opinion; and it figuratively means hobbling on crutches made of boughs* (Strong’s Strongest Concordance, p. 1542).

Do you see that? Do see what happens when we are afraid of doing the right thing? We falter. We reveal “disquieted” and “troubled thoughts.” But why? Why are we troubled over doing the right thing?

Because we know that Truth pays the price of death.

In so doing, we hobble through life like a moral cripple, holding onto whatever cultural trend that appears godly enough to stand behind, but when the real Truth is exposed, we fall hard to the ground. Our cultural crutches give in under the weight of God’s mighty Word.

A word of encouragement is in order, though.

As bold as Elijah had been in calling out a beggarly king and his domineering wife, he still found himself afraid. When the truth battle was over and God consumed the lies with His divine power, Elijah ran away in fear. He didn’t go too far (approximately 24 miles) before he sat under a juniper tree and cried out to God to kill him (1 Kings 19:4), but the Lord told him to eat



and drink for the next 40 days would prove miraculous.

And after that 40-day journey, God told him he wasn't alone.

About five years later Micaiah would also speak out against King Ahab and land himself in a dungeon cell for doing so (1 Kings 22). Wanna know why? Because Ahab hated Truth. He refused to consult Micaiah on what to do regarding a looming war: "There is still one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire; but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil" (1 Kings 22:8, emphasis mine).

Evildoers are troubled by Truth.

They falter between two opinions and hobble along life abiding by the fake-it-to-make-it mantra. When evil is present Truth cannot be tolerated. Evildoers hide Truth. They deny it, suppress it, and do not like to talk about it. So, if we see what Truth does to evildoers—it exposes their feeble crutch-like existence—one question remains.

Are you a "troubler of Israel" or are you a moral cripple who is troubled by Truth? 📱

Bible. I suggest that or any study Bible like NIV version or an amplified one. It's like reading a best friend's journal to get to know them (with their permission, of course).



Things happen to us in life, destruction sometimes comes through events, sometimes we have caused the destruction. Jesus shares with us He makes all thing new, and I can confirm this to be the absolute truth. We are no longer victims, we are victors. We all have a purpose for being on earth. God will reveal your mission if you earnestly seek to know. I know without a doubt I'm here to help young men and women. I serve in our church's middle school ministry, and for three years I have built relationships with these students. I am very transparent and honest about my life with them and others. I let them know no matter what decisions they make in life I love them. I might not appreciate destructive behaviors, but I don't offer them judgement, only direction. The only way I've learned to offer this is by my personal GPS system, God's Word.

I would encourage anyone to find a Bible believing church community to be a part of. To serve others, instead of ourselves. I guarantee you will receive much more than you can give. God promises this, as it is a form of tithing. The abundant life that Jesus speaks about is truly attainable. The fruits of the Spirit (love, kindness, joy, patience, gentleness, and self-control) are just some of the benefits we receive when we align our walk as we follow Jesus. In a world that follows people on social media, we can choose to first follow Jesus. I can promise you that though life might not be easy, you can still experience peace, love, and joy in any circumstance. 📱

someone all your life but really didn't know them, because that was me. I didn't even really know myself. In fact I'm still learning.

It took a friend who revealed how others saw me. She was as tender and soft with her delivery as possible. She said she understood my selfish behaviors, based on the fact growing up poor makes people keep secure that which can be taken. At the point she was having this conversation with me I had been on doctor prescribed narcotics for close to 20 years. I had numbed myself without realizing I was still hiding in shame. I held all that pain of sexual trauma on the inside and I was in physical pain. I'd found a way to keep myself safe, only it wasn't working. That's the way the Enemy works, always getting us to trade off for what seems like an easier solution.

The Enemy is a crafty deceiver. He infiltrates churches, too. So here I am thinking I'm earning my ticket to heaven by attending church. Here's the big takeaway. We can sit in church but never know, never understand that we are only a believer, if we don't chase after a relationship with Jesus, we can't follow Him. It's not about following rules or living up to a standard others set. Once you are besties with Jesus you receive a bonus of a personal counselor, who reveals at just the time we are ready, the next steps in our journey. The GPS system is the Bible, and just like there are many options for GPS

systems, there are many versions of the Bible. One that helped me was The Message



**The only People
Mad at you for
Speaking the
Truth are Those
that are
Living a Lie**

Finding God's Grace

Michelle Regino

Discipline is easy for me to swallow. Logical to assimilate. Manageable & appropriate. But God's grace? Anything but. Examples? How much time do you have?

David the psalmist becomes David the voyeur, but by God's grace becomes David the psalmist again.

Peter denied Christ before he preached Christ.

Zacchaeus, the crook. The cleanest part of his life was the money he laundered. But Jesus still had time for him.

The thief on the cross: hell-bent & hung -out-to -die one minute, heaven-bound & smiling the next.

Story after story. Prayer after prayer. Surprise after surprise. Seems like God is looking more for ways to get us home than for ways to keep us out. I challenge you to find one soul who came to God seeking grace and did not not find it.

“You have me life and showed me kindness, and your care
you watched over my life.”
(Job 10:12)

never left my mind. They instead would arouse an awakening that came much too early for a young soul.

I often heard how attractive I was. I remember my father taking me to work to show me off. I can assure people that when someone is told by others they are beautiful, their value can get misappropriated, so their identity forms in the outer package. It's unfortunate that my goal morphed into what I perceived was necessary: performance-based encounters. I remember my dad cracking a joke about whores verses prostitutes. He said prostitutes earned money, but whores gave it away for free, thus the whores were unwise. I was wise as times and unwise at other times.

It took years to realize I'd been sexually trafficked in my fifth-grade year.

Growing up without financial stability, I learned to be an entrepreneur. I took peoples trash out at the nearby apartment complexes, had a paper route, did dishes, and offered babysitting. When my best friend's older sister told me I could earn fifty bucks for just taking off my top and letting this guy just look, I thought about the cute school clothes I could buy. Next came the call to just let him touch for an extra 25. One can probably imagine how things can progress with a pedophile/groomer setup.

Shame—that was what I lived in. Society says sex is normal/healthy and it can be. Unfortunately for many, young women and men, sexual decisions are made due to hormones, lack of self-control, societal, and peer pressures. To be a virgin past junior high was not cool, unfortunately it still isn't.

It has taken finding a whole new identity to help in the healing process. I attended church throughout my life, I could even state I was a believer. Have you ever known



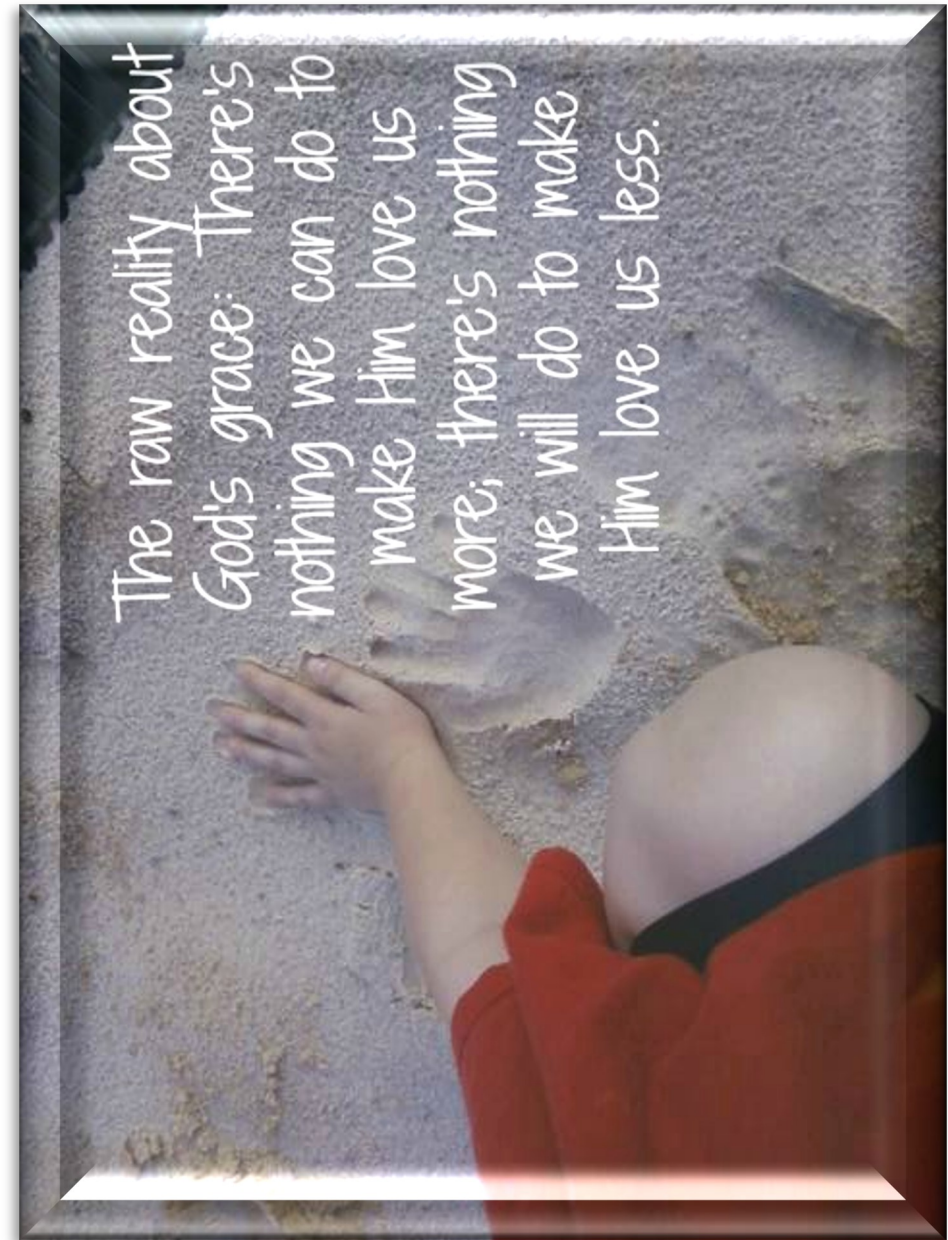
From Sex to Sanctification

Helen Berberich

Sex! Ok now that I have your attention. . .

Recently a movie came out called *The Sound of Freedom*, which reveals the sex trafficking industry. It focuses on the children's innocence being stolen through sexual encounters. I would hope one would understand that participation in pornography in any form feeds this monster. I would challenge anyone who would choose to engage in viewing, to consider that when we view pornography, we are complicit in the sex trafficking industry.

My whole life starting with a rape at age seven was defined by sex. I believe to my core that the XXX drive in theater up the street from where I lived had much to do with much of what I experienced. It didn't help that my dad would stop by the side of the road to watch these with my brother and I in the car. I don't know what he was thinking, but apparently, he geared himself up with those images to be with our mom. The problem was that the images, they





Pressure Makes Champions

Stephen Cervera

Many of us are familiar with the word pressure.

Some say that pressure busts a pipe. The word pressure is defined as 1. a continuous physical force exerted on or against an object by something in contact with it. 2. The use of persuasion, influence, or intimidation to make someone do something. Pressure can be both a positive and a negative, whether you can handle pressure, or fold at the sight of it.

I'm mindful of the test that Daniel faced in the Bible. He truly faced a great deal of pressure at the hands of those who served under King Darius. By their jealousy of Daniel, they persuaded the king to make a decree that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days except for King Darius would be thrown into the lion's den. Even despite this immense pressure, Daniel continued to pray as he always did. He eventually was found praying, and they took him before the king.

Fast forwarding, the king had to keep his word and ordered

Daniel to be thrown into the lion's den. Early the next morning the king came to the den, and he called out to Daniel and Daniel answered him. The lions should have mauled him, however. God sent him an angel to shut the lions' mouth.

Daniel did not fold under pressure.

Instead, he used that pressure, and it made him into a champion! Pressure produces treasure. A diamond formation occurs when carbon deep within the earth (90 to 125 miles) below the surface and is subject to high temperature and pressure. Don't give up! Your life may not have turned out the way you thought it would, but you can turn it around. Take the negative and turn it into a positive! Pressure will not break you; pressure makes champions! I would never have become the man I am today without the pressure I faced. Do not fold under pressure; use it to become a champion! In Romans 8:37 it says, "yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

Next time you think life gets too hard remember this: Pressure makes champions. 🌟