



What I've Sharpened
or Changed
After 30 Years of Counseling

Pastor Brad Bigney

**I. Don't Keep Going
If You Don't Have a
Counselee!**

Proverbs 9:7-8

“Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse. Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you. Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still...”

Proverbs 15:2

“A scoffer does not love one who reproves him, he will not go to the wise.”

I Thessalonians 5:14

**“Now we exhort you, brethren,
warn those who are unruly,
comfort the fainthearted, uphold
the weak, be patient with all.”**

Are they...

- Unruly?
- Fainthearted?
- Weak?

II. Don't Just Plow Ahead in the Face of Set-Backs

**III. Don't Just Correct –
But Connect with
Where They Are**

IV. Don't Wait 'Til the End to Celebrate

**V. Don't Ever Assume
Anything about Anyone
at Any Time!**

Robert Jones has an excellent article titled:

“You Don’t Know What You Don’t Know” (March 5, 2018, BCC blog).

- #1 – Your personal experience
- #2 – Your observations and training
- #3 – Your previous counseling

**VI. Don't Decide for Yourself
What You Think God Has
Done – Ask Them!**

“Reading makes a full man,
conversation a ready man, and
writing an exact man.”

~Francis Bacon

**VII. Don't Teach Commands
without Giving the Greater
Context**

5:18 – Be filled with the Spirit “... be filled with the Spirit”

5:20 – Be thankful “... giving thanks”

5:21 – Be ready to lay down your “rights” “... submitting to one another”

6:12 – Be alert to who the real enemy is that wants to destroy your marriage – Satan

6:13 – Be armed for spiritual battle “Therefore take up the whole armor of God...”

6:16 – Be full of faith “Above all, taking the shield of faith”

6:18 – Be praying constantly “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit”

Phil. 2:3-8

**VIII. Don't Talk about "Fruit"
Sins without Digging into
"Root" Sins**

“Log List”

**IX. Don't Let It Turn into
a Bible Study – Push for
Specific and Practical
Change**

**X. Don't Talk about
Change without Talking
about the Holy Spirit**

You Are Free!

Galatians 5:13-25

You are **FREE** to please God, but still have **disordered desires (flesh)**



When you **GIVE IN** to these desires, you **ABUSE** your freedom



When you abuse your freedom, you **NEGATE** the law of **LOVE!**



When you negate love, you displease God and **DESTROY** or **DEVOUR** other people created in the image of God

Galatians 5:13 “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.”

Galatians 5:14 “For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Galatians 5:15 “But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.”

You Are Free But You Are Conflicted

Galatians 5:17 “For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.”

Romans 7:18 “...For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.”

So, You Must Be Filled with the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18 “And do not get drunk with wine... but be filled with the Spirit”

And You Must Live and Fight Your Own Flesh by the Spirit

Galatians 5:16 Walk by Spirit

Galatians 5:18 Be led by Spirit

Galatians 5:25 Live by Spirit... Keep in STEP with Spirit

Romans 8:3-4 Do not live according to the flesh... but Spirit

Romans 8:5-7 5x uses “mind” set on Spirit instead of flesh

Romans 8:13 You by the Spirit put to death the deeds of the flesh