

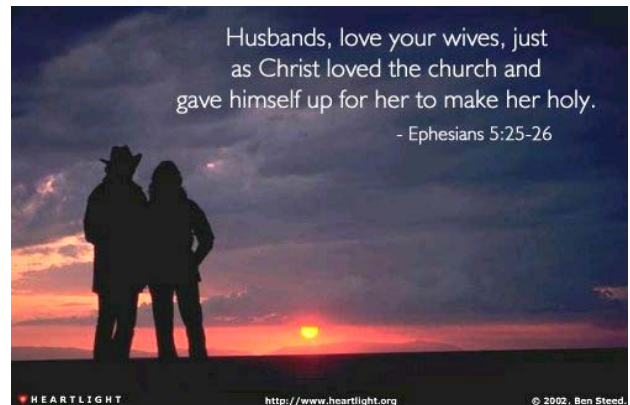


## BARRIERS TO LOVE

*“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you “  
(John 15:12).*

Jesus tells us that love should be the basis of all of our relationships. This is especially true, of course, for the marriage relationship. Husbands, for example, are instructed to love their wives as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25). Wives and husbands are instructed to be mutually submissive out of reverence for Christ. This mutual love is God's desire for every marriage.

Satan's purpose, however, is to build barriers that undermine our ability to give and receive love. A marriage is in trouble when walls have been erected that make it impossible to maintain an intimate loving relationship. There's a reason when one person is unable to love another. Love either grows or it dies; it either develops or it deteriorates. Certain attitudes/actions/sins destroy love and cause it to fail. It cannot grow where these strongholds exist.



Sometimes we need help in identifying these strongholds. We all have blind spots that keep us from seeing the real issues. So often we look at the external problems and fail to identify the inner heart issues that destroy a marriage. To restore intimacy to a marriage, these emotional and spiritual barriers must be biblically identified and biblically resolved. The Word of God “judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12). Troubled marriages truly can be healed and intimacy restored when we willingly follow God's ways!

Our purpose at Set Free Ministries is to guide couples in the process of discovering and resolving the things that have prevented their marriage from being all that God intended. By the power of His Spirit, may we all be “imitators of God—and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us” (Ephesians 5:1, 2).

by Arnie Dykstra

## UGANDA



The Lord willing, Bill Vogelzang; Dean and Loie Bredeweg; Jeff Stam; and Paul and Anne Tameling will be traveling to Uganda September 11 and returning September 23. Plans are to have three days of ministry in Kampala and three days of ministry in Kibale, which is a district about a four hour driving distance West of Kampala. Please pray for the team as they make the necessary preparations. We appeal to you for support of this effort with your prayers first and foremost, and secondly with your financial contribution.



## “JAIL MINISTRY – NOT OURS”

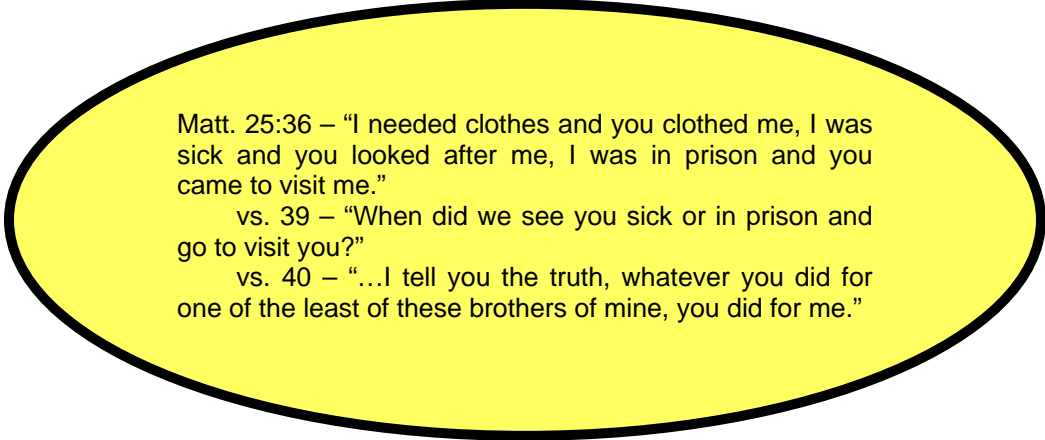
Strange title for a story, but let's talk about prisoners in jail and prisoners set free. “Prisoners.” Who are they?” Or should we ask “whose are they?” They are criminals, law breakers, sinners, not fit for society, put away for our protection, right? Every one of these people has, or had, a mom and a dad, maybe brothers and sisters, other relatives and friends, right? Maybe a spouse and children. They are dads, moms, sons, daughters, wives and husbands. They laugh, cry, get tired, bored and hungry, become angry, suffer depression, experience some joy, are often lonely and most have no hope. Are these people really so different from you and I?

These people (Notice I'm not calling them inmates or prisoners.) are in bondage and I'm not talking about a secure building with bars on the windows and locked steel doors. I'm talking about spiritual bondage; the kind that is a result of opening the door to the temptation to sin. But, is that not also the issue you and I face daily? We open the door to our own bondage issues. So let me ask you; are you and I not like the person lodged in the jail for breaking the laws of the state? (Are you still comfortable?)

Example: Paul Taming and I conducted a freedom appointment with a young man in a local jail. The young man (we'll call him Bill) was extremely depressed, had no hope and had given up on Jesus. In the process of walking through the “7 Steps” Jesus set Bill free. Two weeks after the appointment I visited a joyful and smiling Bill in jail. I asked “how are you doing?” Bill's answer: “really good. I just live here you know. I'm free inside (pointing to his heart). I am at peace.” Bill's doctor reduced his medication 93% and the judge was so pleased with the changes he saw in Bill he released Bill after serving 90 days of a possible 5-15 year sentence. This is only one testimony of freedom from bondage. There are more.

Back to the people in jail. What is our attitude toward these people? Are we interested in them? Do you and I really care? Jesus did. He died for them.

A young man I recently visited in a local jail shared his story of drug and alcohol abuse and three failed attempts at suicide. I said “you must be hurting inside.” His reply – “You'll never know the pain I have.” His story is just beginning. The freedom process has begun. He has hope.



Matt. 25:36 – “I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

vs. 39 – “When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?”

vs. 40 – “...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Hebrews 13:3 – “Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners ...” (NIV).

Will you be Jesus to the prisoner? (Are you still comfortable?)

## “JAIL – IT'S OUR MINISTRY”

by John Klingenberg