

DON'T BE A SNITCH

1 Thes 4:11 Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you.

Always cover a potential problem with prayer. God sees everything. He is in control. Allow God to deal with it in His own time. He is a God of justice.

AVOID GANG ACTIVITY

Gal 5:19-23 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Getting involved with the wrong crowd from the start is a problem. Once you are in, it's often very hard to break out of that crowd and the stereotypes that go along with those associations. Avoid any illegal activities that are proposed to you from the wrong people. Share Jesus with them.

AVOID DEBTS

Rom 13:8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

Avoid gambling while you are in prison. Avoid borrowing money, commissary, and apparel. Often indebtedness is a means of controlling a person.

AVOID IMMORAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Col 3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

Any immoral sexual activity is a tool of Satan to keep you from the blessings of the Father. Avoid any immoral sexual behavior, especially sexual favors and/or obligations.

YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH "THE SYSTEM"

SUBMIT TO AUTHORITY and the system will work for you

Rom 13:1-3 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.

Respect authority as you would want to be respected. When you follow the rules and regulations of the institution, you can make it work for you. Even though it's difficult to curb emotions sometimes, allow God to work in every situation.

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DEATH ROW PARDON REFUSED

There was once a boy who, at the age of four, saw his father in a drunken state brutally kill his mother, two brothers, and a sister. That young boy was soon committed as a ward of the state and lived in many different foster homes. That boy's name was Jerry. As he grew up, Jerry became a very angry and embittered young man. You see, wherever Jerry lived, he was constantly abused; physically, emotionally, and sexually.

Jerry was a walking time bomb, ready to explode. One day he did explode. When a drug deal went bad, he killed three drug dealers and four innocent bystanders. Jerry was subsequently found guilty and sentenced to death.

Three days before his scheduled execution, Jerry had an unlikely occurrence—Jerry had his first visitor ever. When the visitor entered his solitary, death-row cell, Jerry noticed that this visitor was wearing a suit and carrying a Bible. When the man sat down, he said, "Jerry, I want to share with you some good news". When Jerry heard this, he went into a fit of rage and jumped the visitor. Immediately, five guards came to subdue Jerry. Other guards came to rescue the visitor and escort him out. As the visitor was being escorted out, he could still hear Jerry yelling, "You're all hypocrites! Religion never helped me in all my life! Where was Jesus when I needed him most!?"

Jerry had his second visitor that day—the Warden of the institution. "Jerry," the Warden whispered, "I see that you had a visit today from our GOVERNOR". "What!?" screamed Jerry. "That man was the Governor!?" "Yes," said the Warden. "And what's more, he had a stay of execution in his hand—a pardon for you. But, Jerry, you attacked the man and wouldn't even listen to him." Jerry pleaded with the Warden to write, on his behalf, a letter of apology.

On the morning of Jerry's execution, a letter from the Governor's office arrived. To Jerry's horror, stamped on his unopened letter to the Governor, were the words, "Pardon Refused." When Jerry was asked if he had any final words, he paused and said, "Tell people everywhere you go that even though I was a murderer, I was not executed for my crime of murder. I was executed for refusing the Governor's pardon."

You see my friend, we are telling you this story because we have a pardon to share with you. A pardon not of human origin but that of divine origin. What will you do? Will you accept it, or will you reject it like Jerry? That pardon comes through accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. Salvation is a free gift! All you have to do is receive it. Are you willing to receive it today?

If you would like to accept Jesus Christ, please pray this prayer in your heart now: "Lord, today I ask forgiveness of all my sins. I accept your Son, Jesus Christ, into my heart as my Lord and Savior. From this day forward I seek and desire Your will for my life. In Your Son's Name I pray. Amen."



BEHIND BARS WITH JESUS

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LIVING FOR GOD - BEHIND BARS

You are now sitting behind bars thinking, "How did my life go so far astray?" Some of you have been in prison for awhile. Others of you are just newly arrested, waiting, waiting, and more waiting! You are waiting to see the judge, to go to trial, to be sentenced, to be shipped off to prison, or to be released. Your life has been turned upside down. You may have been arrested at your home to the horror of your family, or on the job in front of your peers, or actually in the act of committing a crime. For some, you may have been falsely accused, or maybe you are guilty and are trying to beat the charge. For many, this time of incarceration is God's mercy. This maybe God's way of getting your attention or even protecting you from the risks of your own bad choices out on the streets. This time of incarceration, if you choose, can be a time of drawing closer to God, your Creator.

Regardless, you are behind bars. How are you going to do your time? Are you going to live in the negative world? Or are you going to be 'set free' from your own personal bondage? It's your choice. Are you going to live for God? You can see how well you've done so far without Him. It's time to choose - this day.

If you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, stop now and read, "**Death Row Pardon Refused**" on the back panel of this brochure. If you are a new Christian, we encourage you to continue on and apply the following principles to your life so that you can be set free and live an abundant spirit-filled life, even *Behind Bars*. In this brochure we are going to talk about three types of relationships:

- **Your Relationship with God**
- **Your Relationship with Other Inmates**
- **Your Relationship with "The System"**

YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

A CHILD OF GOD READS GOD'S WORD DAILY

Acts 17:11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

God has given us His Word, which is the Bible, to help us grow spiritually. It is through the Word of God that we, as believers, can understand God's will for our lives, to share His word with other believers, and to be able to fight the good fight when evil and temptation are knocking at our front door. If we read and study God's Word, how can we not do the above? Find someone with whom you can study the Bible with. Be careful who you choose. Not everyone believes in the same Jesus.

A CHILD OF GOD PRAYS DAILY

1 Thess 5:16-18 Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

As you study the Word, God speaks to you. As you pray, you speak to God. Prayer is bringing your needs for yourself and those around you before the Holy of Holies, before God our Father. Start right from the beginning, plan to pray for yourself and those around you for half an hour a day.



A CHILD OF GOD FINDS A CHURCH TO WORSHIP GOD

Heb 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.

God did not intend any of us to be a Lone Ranger Christian. He gave us His church family to be a part of for the purpose of serving and glorifying Him. You will find that one of the greatest privileges of the Christian life is that of having fellowship. You will soon discover the need of meeting regularly with other Christians. Take the time to visit different services and groups in your facility. Use discernment to choose the ones that are Bible-Obased.

A CHILD OF GOD SHARES HIS FAITH WITH OTHERS

Prov 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.

We, as Christians, have a privilege and a responsibility to build up the Kingdom of God here on earth by sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. We can witness to others in many different ways.

A CHILD OF GOD MAKES A COMMITMENT TO LIVE A GODLY LIFESTYLE

If you want the blessing of living a Godly lifestyle, it is important that you are willing to stay away from those areas of prison life that may cause someone to question your commitment. If you aren't willing to **Walk the Talk**, don't try to witness to people. If you have outwardly, blatant, unrepentant sin, you can do more harm than good by witnessing for Christ. People watch those who profess to be Christians very closely, waiting for a chance to bring accusations.

YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER INMATES

ASSOCIATE WITH THE RIGHT CROWD

1 Cor 15:33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

Find the right group of Christians who have the same goal of glorifying God. Surround yourself with solid believers who are strong in their faith and walk.



AVOID THE WRONG CROWD

Heb 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Try to hang around with your brothers or sisters in Christ. By avoiding the wrong crowd you will save yourself a lot of problems. **A LOT** of problems.

AVOID PETTY THEOLOGICAL DISPUTES

2 Tim 2:14 Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.

Stick to the basic truths of the Bible. When you get into a theological disagreement, no one comes out a winner. If you get angry you will only damage your testimony and God's reputation. Your purpose is not to win arguments, but to witness for Him.