

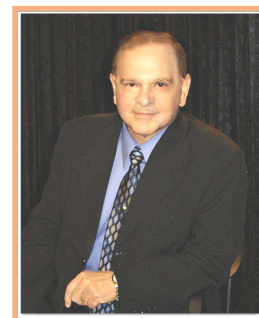
the Informer newsletter



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | PARAGON CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE INT'L (PCAI) | JULY 2021 – ISSUE 7

LEADERS HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF BEHAVIOR AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO CHURCH PROBLEMS

By Dr. Henry A. Harbuck / PCAI Int'l General Overseer



Lately bookstores have been bombarded with books about “co-dependency.” It seems psychotherapists must have overlooked this characteristic for many years or it was titled by another name. I’ve often said, “If American doctors can’t figure out a patient’s syndrome, they will invent one.” However, when it comes to characteristics or personality traits, I believe this one is very real. Although I’ve observed this disorder in my clinical practice through the years (especially in women), I had no name for it.

NOTE: Because this problem exists mostly with women it should not be interpreted that men are superior, or that men don’t have some of these traits. I base my notes totally on current data that reveal that women have a higher average of “co-dependency” tendencies than men.

Every church in America has its share of co-dependent people who need an emotional healing. However, leaders should pay close attention to this hang-up, as I believe it is one reason why churches suffer and collapse. According to the best experts, most “co-dependents” are women. Many theories abound as to what causes one to become overly dependent on others. I personally believe women who possess this trait have suffered early childhood abuse or rejection by a father,



brother, male teacher, or boyfriend. Therefore, in an effort to overcome their feeling of worthlessness, they establish a “system”, or “game plan” to handle their frustration. The end result is “co-dependency.”

Here’s a brief description of co-dependent people:

- 1) They are sacrificial in order to gain control.
- 2) They appear to be “caregivers,” but actually use this to draw attention to themselves.
- 3) They are emotionally dependent on others, especially clinging to selected family members, friends, or pastor.
- 4) They develop their identity from their children, husband, denomination, or any cause or movement that gives them self-worth.
- 5) They wear themselves out to please others. Nothing is too great a sacrifice

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A Positive Spin on “Cannot”

By Rev. Lynn Burling, Christian Faith Church Pastor

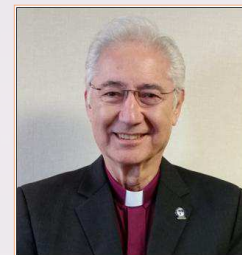
Moses is now 80 years old and 40 years earlier had tried to deliver his people in his own strength. He knew as an infant he had been saved from the drowning of all male babies for that calling. Jochabed his mother would have made sure he knew the promises of God to free His people. He was so sure of God’s promise to deliver His people that he murdered an Egyptian who was abusing a Hebrew slave thus causing him to run from Pharaoh.

Now after spending 40 years tending sheep, he has become quite adept, having poured himself into something in which he could excel. But all

that time “*what might have been*” gnawed at him. You’ve heard this story a thousand times. He sees a bush burning but not consumed. Not only this is unusual but impossible. So Moses draws near to see this phenomenon. And now he hears a voice, (God’s voice), calling his name, Moses, Moses. “I’m here,” Moses replies and the **“I AM THAT I AM”** lays out a precedent for all to observe. “*Take off your shoes Moses, you are standing on holy ground.*” When the presence of God invades your space it’s time to look, see, and observe what he’s saying.

My imagination kicks in here.

How many times did Moses consider himself a failure over those 40 years? He may have thought “I’m too old and have no power to do what I initially knew I was called to.” As the Lord God continues His dissertation saying, “*I have surely seen the affliction of my people and heard their cry... and I know their sorrows*” Moses probably thought— “*You go God, that’s great. Now what are you going to do? (My words of course.) I felt the same way Lord at one time and wanted to help them, but it didn’t work out!*” Moses listens to God and hears Him say the inevitable. **“I want you! to go to Pharaoh and I**



want you to deliver my people.” “Who me?” Moses asks. Haven’t we all been there? This is the point he could not UN-SEE what he saw or UN-HEAR what he heard. After years of wandering and wondering, the vision and the word of the Lord and the purposes of God became concrete in this man.

Gideon’s call is similar to Moses. He is the least in his family, and his tribe is least in Israel and an angel (messenger from God) shows

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Does Your Ministry Have the Right Kind of Insurance

Excerpt from Christian Law Association

The majority of ministries understand the importance of having a basic general liability insurance policy. It is, without a doubt, extremely important. However, many churches and ministries are still unaware of the importance of one additional specific type of insurance – employment practices liability insurance (EPLI). This type of insurance is designed to protect employers from employee claims over discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination, and more. And here’s the surprise – most general liability policies specifically exclude wrongful acts involving employees or applicants.

Churches and ministries need to understand – you do count

as employers. Many labor laws do apply to you. You can be sued. One of the most prominent insurance companies for churches has noted that the employment practices claims are among the fastest growing types of claims made against churches and the reasons for these claims include allegations of discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination, and retaliation. It gets worse – churches can lose these lawsuits, and these suits are returning high number of damages – often well into the hundreds of thousands.

Another important note is that who you choose to hire matters. If a ministry deliberately decides to hire someone with past issues of

sexual abuse or harassment, that choice can absolutely affect your insurance coverage regarding that particular employee.

In today’s litigious environment, having

sufficient and proper insurance for all potential claims is more important than ever. Call your insurance agent today to ensure you have all the coverages you need. □



From the Files of Christian Law Association

Excerpt from CLA Newsletter

ARE YOU GOING TO BE BAPTIZING MINORS...

A church had a very active bus ministry. Recently one of the bus children had gotten saved and wanted to be baptized. This thrilled Pastor's soul but he wasn't sure how to move forward. The child's parents had never been to the church. He called our attorneys to be safe – could he move forward with baptizing this child?

Our attorneys advised that Pastor to set up a time to meet with the child's parents and gain their written consent first before moving forward with the baptism.

SHOULD YOUR CHURCH ALLOW TEENAGERS TO WORK IN THE NURSERY...

A nursery coordinator for a church had recently been approached by a fifteen-year old girl in the church who wanted to volunteer. This particular teen was mature and responsible, but the nursery coordinator wasn't sure. She called CLA.

Our attorneys explained that using female teenagers as extra help is ultimately up to the nursery coordinator's discretion regarding their maturity level. However, teenagers should not count for the rule of having two adults present at all times. They should be seen as extra help in addition to the two adults.

CAN YOU LEAVE A TRACT IN SOMEONE'S MAILBOX...

We need to be quick and clear on this one –the answer is NO. A Christian man was looking for new ways to share the Gospel more quickly, and he was debating making passes through neighborhoods by leaving tracts in individual mailboxes. He called CLA to find out if this was an acceptable idea.

Our attorney told him that this would not just be a bad idea, it was a crime. Federal law prohibits any mailable matter being placed into a mailbox without proper postage. He should take the extra thirty seconds and walk up to the door.

CAN A PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT PASS OUT TRACTS...

A ten year old Christian boy had just gotten saved. He was so excited about his faith that he asked his mother for several tracts that he could give to his fellow students at this public school. Unfortunately, however, his teacher angrily took away his tracts, citing separation of church and state. The boy's mother called CLA.

Our attorneys assured her that as long as other children were allowed to pass out secular items such as birthday invitations, the school could not stop her son from passing out tracts when it wasn't class time.□

A Positive... Continued from page 2

up and tells him he is a “mighty man of valor.” That’s not exactly what Gideon is thinking when we read this. God does not reveal this, but I believe the same vein of deliverance was stirring in Gideon’s heart! Now he could not **UN-SEE** what he just saw, and to prove God’s point that he was “the one” He wanted to accomplish this victory. God told him to go to the camp of the Midianites and just listen! God provided a dream and an interpretation and used Gideon’s opponent to make a point. There God proved to him through the conversation of two men concerning the interpretation of the dream from God about a barley loaf rolling into the Midianite camp and destroying the whole army of over 120,000 soldiers. One man exclaimed “This can be no one else save the Sword of Gideon, the son of Joash.” Judges 7:13 says “*And when Gideon heard the telling of the dream he worshipped.*” Gideon could not **UN-SEE** the angel and Gideon could not **UN-HEAR** the

interpretation of the dream concerning him. It was as if God was speaking directly to him.

Let’s fast forward to 12 men who **SAW** the “*visible image of the invisible God*” and **HEARD** words that some exclaimed “no man ever spoke like this man.” Even the disciples that were hand-picked to carry this gospel could not **UN-SEE** or **UN-HEAR** the truth. This brings us to our current state in 2021. The same way the previous 12 were introduced to our God and Savior - we cannot **UN-SEE** what His Word has revealed to us and we cannot **UN-HEAR** what His spoken words create in us. Why? Because as God *revealed* Himself to Moses in the fire and gave him oral word instructions Moses had a *Responsibility to the Revelation as did Gideon*, as did the 12 and as do we. Revelation (Revealing) of God and His Word begets **responsibility** to the **see-er** and the **hear-er**, and we are the same as those who have come before us. ♥

Leaders Have an.... Continued from page 1

- for anyone with whom they have developed a strong co-dependency.
 - 6) To feel better about themselves, they volunteer to do anything in the church. In the end, however, they continue to feel the same. There is never any change.
 - 7) They have a fear of rejection and loss of love. They burn themselves out trying to be all things to all people.
 - 8) They tend to reject those with whom they’ve not developed a “clinging” (co-dependent) relationship. Although at times they appear warm, but always remain emotionally distant.
 - 9) They become totally enmeshed in the lives and problems of those they cling to.
 - 10) They want to know everything and be everything to those they cling to.
 - 11) In order to feel good about themselves, they must always be in control. Anyone attempting to strip the “co-dependent” of control will suffer a fierce attack.
 - 12) Having learned the secrets of others, the “co-dependent” has a need to gossip. All “co-dependents” have a telephone.
- Christian leaders must guard against this tendency in their own lives. Likewise, they must carefully watch for this trait in those to whom they minister or pastor. ♥



From the Heart of an Evangelist

By Rev. David and Sister Pam Copeland, Revival Now Int'l Director



On Sunday May 23rd, the church around the world marked and celebrated Pentecost Sunday. Many people

think when you mention the Feast of Pentecost, you are simply referring to some “dead feast of the Jews” that has no importance or relevance in the twenty-first century. But that is surely wrong thinking! While the symbolism of the Pentecost Feast WAS & IS fulfilled in Jesus Christ, it still carries some very powerful points that I shared here.

The Day of Pentecost built bridges between the nations, genders, generations, and economic classes.

Keep in mind, the Jews were (& are) just as religious (& territorial) as anyone: they didn't really believe any other nation could be saved except Jewish people. This sounds much like the territorial mindset that prevails in the evangelical community in our day. Let's break this down a little further.

First it built a bridge with the nations. When you read verses 5-12, you will learn that all the nations of the known world in that day were touched with the Gospel.

Vs. 11 says “...we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.”

Second, Pentecost built a bridge with the genders.

Acts 2:17 “And it shall come to pass in the last days SAITH GOD.... I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh: your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...”

In Bible times (and still in many cultures) the sons received the inheritance from the fathers, but daughters were sold off to a husband. Still to this day in many countries of the world a young man must pay a dowry to marry a girl. This dowry is spent by the father or in some cases shared with the sons. But when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, it began a movement that includes

and blesses BOTH sons AND daughters. Or in other words, “The Holy Ghost is an equal opportunity blesser!” Pentecost built a bridge that released a blessing that included BOTH sons & daughters.

Third, Pentecost built a bridge with the generations.

“...and your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams:” There have always been “generation gaps” in humanity as long as there have been humans on the earth. But never more pronounced than it is in this generation.

I don't want to be one of those old guys that younger people pray, “God move him out of the way so we can lead like it needs to be...” If it is true that our ceiling becomes the next generations floor, I pray that God will make my ceiling so high that the coming generation has to climb a ladder to get to it!!!

Fourth, Pentecost built a bridge with different classes of society.

“18. And on my servants and on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days My Spirit and they shall prophesy....”

Critical race theory that is being promoted in schools across our country today, is an attempt by Satan to reclassify society and it's people by race..... in essence reintroducing segregation, the very thing we have been trying to destroy for generations. A fresh Pentecost will destroy a slave mindset, a segregated mindset, a territorial mindset and will bring races, genders and generations together connecting us as one nation and people, under God indivisible with liberty and justice for ALL. The ground really is level at the foot of the cross!

So, when the Holy Spirit was poured out....and IS poured out again, every segment of society gets blessed!! May God give us a fresh Pentecost, quickly! ♥

ANNOUNCEMENT

Annual Credential Renewals

DUE OCTOBER 1ST



TWO WAYS TO RENEW:

- (1) Complete the credential renewal form mailed to you.
- (2) ONLINE—you can fill out the renewal form by going to our website: <https://paragonchristianalliance.org/renewals/>

NOTE: Review your monthly giving/contribution and bring to current if you are behind, before we can renew your credential.

The INFORMER Newsletter is a free monthly publication of P.C.A.I. (Paragon Christian Alliance International) & PCAI Clergy Association

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