

CHRISTIAN NARCISSISM

During this term of nursing school, I have had to take a course in psychology. Personally, I have never liked the mind sciences. I think this is because the mind sciences are man's way of explaining things that are easily seen in scripture as being traits of people, both good traits and bad traits. I also don't like the fact that the mind sciences often refer to the actions of people as being a result of human evolution. Humans didn't evolve, they were created in the image of Yahweh. Adam and Chava were perfect human beings until they sinned, after which they became flawed in every possible way. The result of this fall is a natural series of flaws in human character and behavior. It can only be remedied by faith in Yeshua, and even then, it is a daily challenge to overcome the flesh.

Currently, most of the people in our class are having a difficult time dealing with an individual who is a classic narcissist. I'd like to explain what a "narcissist" is in its clinical terminology and then lay out a scriptural parallel, knowing and acknowledging that scripture explained things way before science did. Psychology is the humanist way to try to explain human frailties. It is their way of figuring out human actions and attitudes without admitting that it all boils down to sin, a rebellion against Yahweh. So, what does psychology say about narcissism?

Narcissism is the pursuit of gratification from vanity, or egotistic admiration of one's own physical or mental attributes, that derive from arrogant pride. The term originated in Greek mythology with Narcissus, who fell in love with his own image reflected in a pool of water.

Four dimensions of narcissism as a personality variable have been delineated: leadership/authority, superiority/arrogance, self-absorption/self-admiration, and exploitativeness/entitlement.

- **An obvious self-focus in interpersonal exchanges** – Their idea is more important than the idea of anyone else and their opinion is supreme. Your purpose is to merely agree with them.
- **Problems in sustaining satisfying relationships** – They maintain relationships until they wear people out or abuse relationships and/or associations. They are psychological vampires, so to speak.
- **A lack of psychological awareness** – They will not admit that they could have a problem. They think that the problems are with other people.

- **Difficulty with empathy** – They may feign a caring attitude, but they really can not walk in the moccasins of others.
- **Problems distinguishing the self from others** – They feel that all people should think like they do and that most others think like they do, or should think like they do.
- **Hypersensitivity to any insults or imagined insults** – They make a mountain out of an mole hill. They come out swinging (i.e. debating to prove that they're right).
- **Vulnerability to shame rather than guilt** – They are never guilty of anything. They feel shame from time to time but deny that shame by defending themselves.
- **Haughty body language** – They flaunt themselves. Their noses are in the air because they are sure that they are God's gift to anything that they are interested or involved in.
- **Flattery towards people who admire and affirm them** – They will lift up those who agree with them and befriend them easily. They will do anything for those who uplift them.
- **Detesting those who do not admire them** – They will assassinate the character of anyone who disagrees with them. They are masters at turning people against their enemies. They can also act out to physically harm others.
- **Using other people without considering the cost of doing so** – They will use anyone in any way to achieve their goal and kick-drop you over the goal post when they're finished with you.
- **Pretending to be more important than they really are** – They claim to be experts even though they don't have the credentials, authority or documentation to prove their expertise. They'll tell a doctor how to be a doctor, a pastor how to be a pastor and will point out what they think are errors of professional judgment.
- **Bragging (subtly but persistently) and exaggerating their achievements** – They're experts at humble pridefulness.
- **Claiming to be an "expert" at many things** – Once they've claimed victory in one area they will move to other areas to become an "expert" in that area too. An unbreaking cycle.
- **Inability to view the world from the perspective of other people** – Their thoughts and ideas should be the thoughts and ideas of everyone else and anyone who disagrees in any degree are totally wrong and faulty.
- **Denial of remorse and gratitude** – They cannot show remorse and might even transfer guilt to others in order to remain correct. They cannot show gratitude because if it is successful, and praiseworthy, it was their idea.

I've been involved in Christian research of the Bible and also of anomalous activity for many years. Where human psychology is concerned, in regard to this research, I have come to the conclusion that there are basically two types of researchers. There are those who want to present "research," but there are also those who want to present, "their research." Those who want to present research are pretty well balanced mentally and they are balanced scripturally and spiritually. They choose to have dialogue with other researchers. Dialogue allows a body or researchers to submit and meet out their findings so as to come to a common consensus. The narcissist camp likes to debate and by doing this they want to reinforce their point of view by being the victor in the debate and (whether they will admit it or not) they like to belittle and shame those whom they feel they have defeated in the debate.

If you're reading this, and you're not a narcissist, you have probably had occasion to be around one. They are in every workplace, at every school, at every dinner party and in every church, synagogue and youth meeting and of course, they're predominate in every mosque. They're the sort that if they thought the sky was forest green, and you said that it was blue, they would debate with you as to why they are right. They will find one word, or perhaps a sentence in scripture and they'll build a whole doctrine over it. They will twist other scriptures, or take them grossly out of context in order to prove their point to be correct. They're often skilled at double-talk and could sell their own mothers' beachfront property in Arizona. They seldom will approach a subject one point at a time, but will flood their victim with a myriad of examples of their doctrine in order to confuse. They are the type that, if you were to shoot one bullet at them, they would return your shot with an atom bomb. They like it when they make you look like a fool in the presence of other people. If you make one error in your dissertation, they will ALWAYS capitalize on it and will always bring it up in conversation. They usually have a cheering section consisting of sycophants that have either been coerced to see things their way, or of other narcissists who like to stir things up.

The person who we have to deal with at school is truly NOT a believer in Yeshua. She is an agnostic at best that leans toward a pagan point of view. The thing is, I have no problem with pagans, satanists, atheists and other worldly people acting like narcissists. Worldly people are supposed to act in disobedience toward Torah and Messianic principles. They are supposed to be the antithesis of the Judeo/Christian ethic. What bothers me is when a believer acts in a narcissistic manner. Sociopaths (who parallel in many ways a narcissist) and narcissists have no place in the Kingdom of Yahweh. I should probably revise that and say that people who act in sociopathic or narcissistic mannerisms have no place in Yahweh's Kingdom.

Society has changed in a big way just from when I was a young child. When I was young, even unbelievers had the urge to stand up for the underdog; to advocate for the meek and those who are defenseless. However, in our current society, we have taken on more of an evolutionist doctrine, that only the strong survive. When I was a young man, debate was left to politicians, and that was one of the reasons why we didn't like politicians; they were willing to throw each other under the bus even back then. Common people back in my day were courteous and for the most part they were kind to each other. Don't get me wrong, there were those who acted narcissistic and there were sociopaths, but they were shunned by society and sometimes they would even repent and change.

Today however, even in the Christian realm, we see a mentality where many like to see weak people thrown to the lions of debate and discord. Just as Yeshua predicted, because iniquity has grown so large and is infecting every element of society, the love of the many has grown cold. If I were to suggest to a group of young Christians that there was going to be thirty believers in the park with swords and that they were going to fight to the death, most would find that distressing and they wouldn't go anywhere near the park. Some would call the police and tip them off to the event in the hopes that it would stop. This fight would be akin to the fights that the Romans used to have in the Colosseum; every one fought until only one survived. Debating is no different, it is a verbal fight to the death. Some of my fellow researchers and myself have had to deal with such people, those who call themselves believers, but who will go through stringent lengths to slay their brother with words and humiliate them through debate. These debaters have sycophants, little miscreants who like to watch fights and who cheer on the professional debater. In our analogy above, the debaters are the fighters in the park and their sycophants are the ones who cheer them on from the Colosseum seats around the park.

One thing that has always sort of amused me, or maybe I should say amazed me, is that Christian narcissists who like to debate will search out scriptures to prove their point. They will scour through their concordances, look for proof from commentaries and even look at extra-biblical books to prove their point, yet they miss the whole intention of scripture, the very foundation that the whole of scripture is built upon; that being that we're supposed to Love Yahweh with all of our heart, soul mind and strength, and equally, we should love our neighbor; the second being proof that we fulfill the first. We're commanded to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. So, when a narcissistic believer tears another to shreds, does that mean that they would like their neighbor to tear them to shreds too? Such behavior isn't listening to the voice of Yahweh, it is listening to other voices; which when you think of it, is a key characteristic of schizophrenia; hearing other voices and acting on what they tell you to do.

Since narcissism and sociopaths are so similar in characteristics, they are many times combined with each other. All sociopaths are narcissists, which should be alarming to those who are in league with or victims of Christian Narcissists. The scary thing is that Christian Narcissists aren't just mentally maladjusted, they are spiritually maladjusted. Both ungodly narcissists and Christian Narcissists can cause harm, but the Christian narcissist can use Scripture and spiritual gifts to cause harm. Whether their spiritual gifts are genuine or counterfeit can be debated as well as if they are truly Christians in the first place. Let me elaborate on that. Anyone can call themselves a Christian, and anyone can feign that status by playing the part; so the question should be asked, if they call themselves Christians, are they true believers in Yeshua. In other words, do they just believe in Yeshua or do they actually Believe Yeshua. If you actually "believe" him you keep His Commandments, the greatest of these is Love.

We're told by Yeshua about the litmus test for being a true lover of Yeshua, and that test is the love that we have for one another:

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:35

And as further elaborated by Peter and John:

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently 1 Peter 1:22

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 1 John 4:7

Where does that leave the Christian Narcissist. Where does that leave the debater, who argues his or her doctrine in order to be a winner. Where does that leave the person who is adeptly skilled to tear another person to shreds and receive accolades from others? Well, as Yeshua said, "you will know them by their fruits." If a person claims to know Yeshua, yet they enjoy tearing their brother to shreds, loves throwing them to the lions or putting to the sword, there is no love in them. Remember, that a narcissist loves himself and opposes (hates) anyone who disagrees with him or her. That is hatred, not love:

Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. 1 John 3:15

And:

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 1 John 4:20

Again, you will know them by their fruit. Bad fruit does not grow on a good tree and you cannot gather grapes from thistles.

As I mentioned at the beginning, there is a scriptural definition of sociopaths and narcissists, and many of these can be seen in Christian Narcissists. Know this, that as the narcissist grows worse, and if they don't come to repentance, if they have only a few of the character traits listed in the scripture below, they will continue to grow worse until they have nearly all of them.

*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² **For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,** ³ **without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,** ⁴ **traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;** ⁵ **having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.** ⁶ *For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,* ⁷ *ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.* ⁸ *Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.* ⁹ *But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was. 2 Timothy 3:1-9**

What I have found is that many Christian Narcissists use the argument that they are debating in order to help their "poor misinformed brethren" the truth of scripture. They are arguing in order to show a person where they err. What I have also noticed is that their arguments are mostly always in the "gray areas," the nonessential elements of the faith. Christian Narcissists like to argue things like Pre vs. Post Tribulation Rapture, Calvinism vs. Arminism, and my favorite, that there wasn't a second incursion of fallen angels after Noah's flood and that

the Nephilim existed after the flood by some other reason. All of these things are non sequitur compared to the essentials of the faith. Pardon my French, but do you think that Yahweh gives a rat's ass about these things? Don't you think that He's more concerned that people sit around and debate such things, develop a hatred for each other because of disagreements, and fail to fulfill the Great Commission, and, that some of his people are Narcissists and Sociopaths.

So, if you find that you're a victim of a Christian Narcissist, get away from them immediately. If you're in league with a Christian Narcissist, disassociate from them. If a Christian is a debater and they are not willing to have a brotherly and godly dialogue, don't waste your time. We're told not to cast our pearls before swine and not to offer what is holy to dogs. By all means, pray for the Christian Narcissist, because in some cases they don't know that they are being narcissistic. If they are true believers in Yahweh Yeshua then they will be willing to accept your correction, the correction of Yahweh and they will be willing to repent and be renewed. My purpose for writing this article was to help those who are victims of Christian Narcissists and/or Christian Sociopaths. If you are a Christian Narcissist or sociopath and you are offended, well then, good. You need to be shown for what or who you are, and hopefully you will allow the Ruach Ha Kodesh to talk to you and you will listen and obey Him. That would be wonderful. However, if you are in denial, or remain in denial, you will grow worse and worse and come to a bitter end. If you are a counterfeit believer and/or a reprobate born to perdition then please disregard this warning.