

CELEBRATE RECOVERY IS A FALSE MINISTRY!

This is serious, because anyone who follows a false gospel goes to Hell. Why? Because the true gospel is the only way to Heaven (Acts 4:12). Any religious teaching that goes against the Word of God is counterfeit, and by definition, cannot save.

There are at least 4 concepts I know that Celebrate Recovery teaches that is contrary to the Word of God:

1. **Loving Yourself / Self-Esteem**

In many of their Issue Pamphlets (one example is <https://www.celebraterecovery.com/resources/cr-tools/issue-pamphlets-3/101-revised-pamphlets/329-exploring-the-issue-of-love-and-relationship-addiction-2>), under “Characteristics of Someone in Recovery”..., they include the following phrase:

Learning to love ourselves as God loves us, so knowing we are worth the work it takes for Him to heal us.

Celebrate Recovery also uses the phrase “self-esteem” as if it is something to be attained. Under the Issue Pamphlets of “Food and Body Issues”, we see these phrases:

As a problem: Low self-esteem and/or negative body image

As a solution: Developing a healthy identity and positive self-worth that comes from God, not our bodies or others

In I Timothy 3:1-4, Paul speaks of characteristics of the wicked in the last days. Verse 2 says:

2Ti 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

“lovers of their own selves” is included in that list. Those who love themselves are among the wicked.

A verse that is similar in structure to “loving ourselves as God loves us” is found in 1 John 4:19:

1Jn 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

Note that it doesn't say “We love *ourselves*, because he first loved us.”, but rather that we love God because He first loved us. And how do we show our love for God? By obeying His commands. (I John 5:3)

And speaking of “self-esteem” and “self-worth”, what is that except as George Carlin says, to “think highly of ourselves”? This is pride, the opposite of what Jesus says is a trait of the blessed:

Mat 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

2. Forging Yourself

In the Issue Pamphlet concerning “Physical, Sexual, and Emotional Abuse For Men” (and For Women), a characteristic of those in “recovery” include the following:

We are willing to accept God’s help in the decision and the process of forgiving ourselves and those who have perpetrated against us.

Nowhere in Scripture is the concept of forgiving yourself ever taught. (Proverbs 30:5-6)

3. Use of the “12 Steps”

When looking at the 12 Steps in Celebrate Recovery, it looks like a carbon copy of the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous (Romans 12:2) (<https://www.celebraterecovery.com/resources/cr-tools/12steps> and <https://www.aa.org/the-twelve-steps>). A paraphrased version follows:

We are powerless over our problems
A “greater power” is the only way to help us
We decide to turn to this power
We audit our own morality
We confess to this power, and to others, of our problems
We are ready to have this power remove our “defects of character”
We ask this power to remove our shortcomings
We list those we harmed, and resolve to make amends
We make amends whenever we can
We continue to audit our lives and promptly admit when we're wrong
We seek to improve our conscious contact with this power
Having been changed, we teach others

Nowhere in Scripture is this sequence of steps used. (Proverbs 30:5-6) Yes, Scripture is cited for each of the steps. For example:

7. We humbly asked Him to remove all our shortcomings.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 NIV

Now, this verse does speak truth: Confessing our sins does lead to forgiveness. However, why do you even need a 12-step program to overcome your sins? All it takes to overcome your sins

is to submit to God and His Word, not a process, not a program, but God and His Word! That's all you need.

Consider this verse:

Rom 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

How does one mortify the deeds of the body through the Spirit? By using His sword, the Word of God! (Ephesians 6:17)

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says:

2Ti 3:16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2Ti 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

A God-breathed Scripture (also see 2 Peter 1:21) is sufficient.

4. **The 8 Principles (<https://www.celebraterecovery.com/resources/cr-tools/8principles>)**

Celebrate Recovery teaches the “8 Principles”, which are based on The Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-9. This is what they teach:

Realize I'm not God; I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable. (Step 1)

“Happy are those who know that they are spiritually poor.” Matthew 5:3a
TEV

v. 3 says that the humble (poor in spirit) are blessed, for “theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” CR leaves that out.

Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him and that He has the power to help me recover. (Step 2)

“Happy are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” Matthew 5:4
TEV, NIV

Acknowledging that God exists, that you matter to Him, and that He has the power to help you recover is not what's mentioned in v.4. Jesus says that those who mourn are blessed. Two different things.

Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control. (Step 3)

“Happy are the meek.” Matthew 5:5a TEV

Again, meekness and submission are two different things. The context is again incorrect.

Openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust. (Steps 4 and 5)

“Happy are the pure in heart.” Matthew 5:8a TEV

Firstly, purity of heart is not a step in recovery, it's a characteristic, for Jesus says the result of purity in heart is seeing God (v. 8b).

Voluntarily submit to any and all changes God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects. (Steps 6 and 7)

“Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires”
Matthew 5:6a TEV

This is somewhat accurate, seeing that it's another way of saying “hunger and thirst after righteousness” (KJV). Jesus promises those who do so will be filled.

Evaluate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others when possible, except when to do so would harm them or others. (Steps 8 and 9)

“Happy are the merciful.” Matthew 5:7a TEV; “Happy are the peacemakers” Matthew 5:9 TEV

Offering forgiveness is of the truth. Making peace is of the truth.

Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will. (Steps 10 and 11)

No Scripture is mentioned here.

Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and my words. (Step 12)

“Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires.” Matthew 5:10 TEV

Two different contexts here. CR mentions spreading their “Good News”. Jesus mentions persecution.

Notice another thing: Each of these principles cites one or more of the 12 Steps. What's going on? Are the 8 Principles submitting to the 12 Steps? Is Scripture submitting to the 12 Steps? This pattern is clearly of man:

Rom 12:2 **And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

So what must one do to overcome our “hurts, habits, and hang-ups?”

- * Repent of our sins.
- * Trust in Jesus, the Word of God.

Act 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, **repentance** toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Jn 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

- * Fear God and flee from evil.

Job 28:28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that *is* wisdom; and to depart from evil *is* understanding.

- * Cut off any and all sources of temptation.

Mat 5:29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Mat 5:30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell.

- * Continue to study the Scriptures to stay grounded in the truth.

Psa 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

You don't need a 12-Step Program to overcome sin. Jesus is all you need.