

Self-Love and Self-Esteem

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Ezekiel 34:10, 23

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Eph. 5:28-29 “So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh;....” KJV When it says “**no man ever hated his own flesh**” it's saying that no one ever hated himself. God has already created every human being with the correct amount of **automatic** “self-love”.... or “self-care”. It is **automatic**, just like breathing. Nobody has to be taught to breathe. And, if you try to breathe too much, you could hyperventilate and pass out. Likewise, any additional “self-love”, “self-respect”, “self-image” or “self-esteem” is unnecessary and **will cause excessive selfishness**.

Why then are there so many people who are constantly saying that it's always good if you love yourself more? Some of them even act as though more “self-love” is a universal solution to every problem.... and that every problem is the result of insufficient “self-love”. Some of those people have difficulty even maintaining any kind of conversation without this subject somehow popping up.

But, if you are honest and examine all of the circumstances related to the cases of “self-love”, “self-respect”, “self-image” or “self-esteem”, they all have one thing in common: every one of them is **always, always, always** concerned with a situation between an individual and other people. The only person who has any business thinking about “self-love”, “self-respect”, “self-image” or “self-esteem” is a hermit, who never has any dealings with anyone else except himself.... and amazingly, hermits are never concerned about such things.

The moment other people are involved, it is **not** a “self to self” situation. A “self to self” situation is like someone, such as a hermit, throwing a boomerang to himself, who could play catch with himself without the necessity of any other person. In most sports, playing catch requires at least two people, except maybe for a tennis player hitting a ball against a wall all by himself, with nobody else involved. But, what is commonly called “self-love”, “self-respect”, “self-image” or “self-esteem” is **always** concerning a “self to others” situation. (See article listed below on: Consequences of Using Incorrect Terminology.)

A good example of how people typically misuse this terminology is to imagine someone has an obstacle in his path that he needs to get over. Suppose he needs to climb a wall that's taller than himself. The modern misapplication of “self-_____” is like thinking that he can hold his own hands together in front of himself, put one of his own feet into his own hands and lift himself over the wall. Everyone knows that if he wants

to get over the wall he needs another person to hold **their** hands together, then he can put his foot into **their** hands and then the other person can lift him up to where he can get over the wall.

Another illustration of the modern misuse of the terminology “self-_____” is to imagine someone's in a sailboat at sea, and a storm is coming. He needs to secure the boat, so he takes the rope that was intended to be tied onto a secure object, such as a dock, and he ties that rope onto the boat itself. True “security” comes from tying a sailboat onto something that is **more** secure than itself. Without this “security” the boat would be in danger of being thrown onto some rocks where it would be destroyed.

Or, how about the comedy movie where there was a man snow skiing who wanted to go faster, so he took hold of his own necktie with his own hands and pulled it out in front of himself, so he started to go faster. Of course, everybody knows that his increase in speed was due to video special effects, not from him pulling his own necktie. After all, if something like that worked, bicycles would not even need peddles. People could just pull themselves along with a necktie instead. But somehow, most people have difficulty understanding how all this “self-_____” stuff is equally as absurd.

This sounds like the story of the two pastors who went out fishing on a lake in a rented fishing boat. (Church leaders and psychologists are the leading people promoting this “self-_____” stuff.) They were looking for a spot where they could find a lot of fish. They had to move around several times until finally they found a good spot where they caught a lot of fish. So the one pastor says to the other: “hey, why don't you mark this spot so that next time we can come right here first thing.” And then the first pastor turns around to start the motor to go back to the dock where they rented the boat. When they get there, the first pastor asks the other: “hey, how did you mark that spot?” And he replies: “right here, I put an “X” on the side of the boat.” Then the first pastor says: “you dummy, what if we don't get the same boat next time?” Believe it or not, most people who graduated from “universities” with doctorate degrees in psychology hold to this kind of “self-_____” stuff. (Are those institutions really qualified to be called “universities” when they teach this kind of irrational dummy stuff?)

Of course, you have to understand that the real reason why they stick to this stuff is not because they're dummies. They use it because the patients that come to their counseling sessions like hearing it, so the patients come more often when the psychologist talks that way. Therefore, the psychologists become more popular and make more money by using it. The “self-_____” stuff also keeps people in a mentally and emotionally insecure unstable condition, so the psychologists make more money that way, too. (You know, if they actually started curing people, business would go down.)

The worst case of a psychologist who **never** cured anyone was Sigmund Freud. Not only did he **never** heal anyone, but his methods were actually like poison for the purpose of making the patients worse..... or rather, for the purpose of keeping patients in a state requiring the continual need for care, by which the psychologist makes more money. This is why he was so highly regarded in this field. He knew how to

boost business more than anyone else. The best example of this phenomenon is all this “self-_____” stuff. Most people think it sounds good, and yet it works like poison.

However, in all fairness, it needs to be said that this type of corruption goes on in most professions. Some medical doctors many times try to keep patients half-way sick so they can make more money off them. Even auto mechanics lie about car problems to make more money. And how about computer technicians who lie and tell you that you have a major problem with your computer? The worst of all are the majority of church pastors who are really spies for Satan, who keep the church in a state of lukewarmness. (See article listed below on: Wolves in Sheep’s Clothing) (**And**, see article on: The Lukewarm Church.)

Not only could Freud keep the patients in a state of constant care, he was an expert at convincing them that his poison was somehow helping them improve. He was a master of deceit. He was an artist of deception. He was a salesman of salesmen, an expert at boosting the psychiatric business. Every psychiatrist knows that if they want to make more money, just imitate Freud. He was the master of manipulation. He knew how to milk the cow and squeeze out every last drop of milk. Freud was a fraud.

The only people who could beat Freud for deception are the church leaders who are, what Jesus called, “wolves in sheep’s clothing”. (See article listed below on: Wolves in Sheep’s Clothing) The few church leaders who are not spies from Satan usually had some of those spies as trainers who prepared them for their work in the church. Those few non-spy leaders are not capable of perceiving the presence of a “wolf in sheep’s clothing”, nor can they perceive the corruption which the spies are pumping into the church. (See article listed below on: Wolves in Sheep’s Clothing.) The best of them might occasionally be able to identify one item of corruption, but they don’t know what to do about it. All they know is that if they attempt to correct any problem, then they would have to do battle with the majority of other people in their church leadership. During the dark ages, anyone who tried to correct the church usually got burned at the stake.

Never before have there been so many people trained in psychiatric help as now. And one of the main causes of the increase of that need is the poisoning effect of the modern psychiatric teachings, like the unnecessary intensification of selfishness produced by teaching people to intensify self-love, self-esteem, self-respect and self-image. This is one of the main ingredients which is causing extreme mental instability in the people across America. The whole country is going crazy. And, nobody seems to know what is causing this epidemic of mental illness. It is so bad that it should be compared to a Titanic, which is going to sink. It’s only a question of time. Sooner or later that baby’s going down. Corruption can only get so bad until finally it will cause the collapse of the entire society.

The very essence of “love” is that it is something meant to be shared to and from others..... but most importantly shared to and from God. Anyone who truly wants to experience secure “love” and be “esteemed” as somebody of value needs to know God's love and love exchanged with other people..... **not** “self-love”. God's love is the most “secure object” anyone can tie their life to. (sailboat to) God's love and love exchanged with other people is the cure for anyone who mistakenly imagines that they hate themselves, when what they really hate is their “circumstances” or their own “condition in respect to others”. What they really hate is their predicament, plight, condition or status in life. They want their situation “in respect to other people” to improve, thereby demonstrating that their God given **automatic** “self-love” is functioning even while they mistakenly think that they hate themselves.

Even when they think they hate the way they are or the way they do things, it is still always in respect to how they relate to other people. If they were hermits, they wouldn't care about those things. They are confusing “self-hatred” with “plight-hatred”, thereby calling something with incorrect terminology. (See article listed below on: The Consequences of Using Incorrect Terminology) The very nature of love is that it is intended to be exchanged to and from others..... **not** to and from self.

Why do so many Christians listen to teachings like this unnecessary deliberate intensification of “self-love”, “self-respect”, “self-image” or “self-esteem”? Why? It appeals to young people who are not mature enough to understand the danger. It appeals to the lower nature of human beings. It is a justification of intensive selfishness. Since there are many people who enjoy being selfish, they like the positive teaching of maximizing “self-love”, “self-respect”, “self-image” and “self-esteem” which makes it sound moral and good, thus justifying intensive selfishness.

When selfishness increases, the love of others and the love of God automatically decrease. Intensive selfishness cannot exist alongside of the love exchanged to and from God or others. Thus, the more someone loves himself, the less he loves God and others. Nobody likes being around someone who is very selfish..... it's offensive. (Even those people who go around teaching others to love themselves more don't like being around selfish people. They know it's all a big contradiction.) However, it is possible for people to love both their “situation in respect to others” and also love others and God at the same time.

Tampering with “self-image” incorrectly can also cause mental illness. Combined with “positive thinking”, many people start to convince themselves that they are somebody that they are not. They develop a false **fantasy** “image” of themselves..... and eventually they can't distinguish reality from **fantasy**..... they really start to believe their own lies about themselves. What they need is not to falsify their own evaluation (image) of themselves.

They need to experience love and be valued by others, but most importantly they need to be loved and feel valued by God. They need to understand that Jesus Christ valued them so much that he sacrificed his own life on the cross for them, so that they

could be saved. **John 15:13** “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (See article listed below on: Salvation)

The confusion here is due to an unclear definition of the terms: “self-love”, “self-respect”, “self-image” and “self-esteem”. It is of the utmost importance to recognize that any terminology referring to “self-_____” **must** be applied exclusively to situations in life where other people are **not** involved, like a hermit playing tennis against a wall with himself. In cases relating to other people, instead of saying “self-love” you should say “love of others” while not forgetting to “love others”. Instead of saying “self-respect” you should say the “respect of others” while not forgetting to “respect others”. Instead of saying “self-esteem” you should say the “esteem of others” while not forgetting to “esteem others”.

The term “self-image” should be replaced with “self-evaluation” honestly, without false fantasies. Any deficiencies in “self-evaluation” should be met with “self-improvement” by setting and pursuing realistically achievable goals, not false fantasies. (It should also be recognized that certain types of goals are not worth being pursued. Our society puts an over-emphasis on some things that are simply not important.) And “self-hatred” should be replaced with “predicament-hatred”. “Predicament-hatred” demonstrates that the person wants to improve their situation in life, thereby indicating that they have “self-love” or “self-care” even while they mistakenly and incorrectly think that they hate themselves. They hate their predicament, not themselves.

One of the most important exchanges of “love” is between parents and children. Children who are raised with plenty of parental love are **always** very secure and ready to give love to others. Likewise, when someone senses in their spirit a strong feeling of love from God, the Father, they are always very stable not only spiritually, but also emotionally and mentally. **2Ti 1:7** “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

Therefore, people who have a problem with emotional instability should seek God's love, which is written about in the Holy Bible, especially the New Testament of the Bible. The best book to start with would be the book of John. There are also **free** audio recordings of someone reading the Bible found at www.audiotreasure.com. The King James Version (KJV 1611) is the oldest (in print) and most reliable translation in English. The old English is very poetically beautiful, like reading Shakespeare, but sometimes the old terminology is a little difficult to understand. The **free** software at www.e-sword.net has an instantaneous pop-up dictionary that will help new readers to understand it very well. The www.e-sword.net **free** software also has an abundance of extra helps, like commentaries (that explain things), maps, cross references (which direct you to other places in the Bible that talk about the same subject), word searches which also direct you to other places that talk about the same subject, and encyclopedias, too. Bibles and books in other languages. And, they have the bible in its original languages. All **free**. (But, if you can, please donate.)

The Bible says: 2Tim. 3:1-6 1- 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, high-minded, 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,” KJV. Notice, in verse 2, that “**lovers of their own selves**” is the number one worst “perilous” offense on the list. In verse 5, the command (instructions) to the faithful Christians is to “**turn away**” from such people. (“turn away” means to have no fellowship or intimacy with them, even if they are one of your own family members.) Don’t forget to warn them first. Mat 18:15-17 “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.” (excommunicate, shun, banish) (A “**publican**” was a tax collector who worked for the Roman government, who all their own fellow citizens hated and avoided, because those tax collectors always overcharged their own fellow citizens for taxes. This is an excellent example of how that special software at e-sword.net can explain unusual words in the Bible, like “**publican**”).

Even in secular law, someone who maintains fellowship with a known criminal is considered an “accomplice” in the crimes, even though they did not commit the crimes. It must also be understood that, unlike secular law, some of the spiritual crimes are not so obvious. Therefore, when someone is committing a spiritual crime (sin), usually there is a need to bring it to their attention. In other words, don't just walk away and not let them know what they've done. But, let them know privately first.

The corruption of excessive “self-love” is so powerful that it **must** be considered a contagious and spiritually lethal disease. (If you knew a person who has a contagious lethal disease, wouldn't you stay away from them?) Nevertheless, the Bible has the proper cure or “medication”, as long as the person has not crossed the line of no return. If such a person refuses to accept the “medication”, then you must stay away from them, or else you will catch the sickness, too.

THIS INTENSIVE SELFISHNESS IS CONTAGIOUS and spiritually lethal!!! Eventually, it will cut your conscience so that there will be no turning back. 1Tim. 4:2 “Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;” KJV Do not even pray for people who call themselves Christians who insist on continuing in such sins, there is no hope for them. Mat 12:31,32 “....All manner of sin and blas-

phemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.”

They clearly identify themselves by insistence on all that “self-_____” stuff, and by rejecting the medication. 1John 5:16 “If any man see his brother (fellow Christian) sin a sin which is **not** unto death, he shall ask (pray), and he shall give him life for them that sin **not** unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.” KJV (Also: Gal. 1:8,9; 1Cor. 11:30-32) (These rules only apply to Christians who have been corrupted. They do not apply to nonbelievers. Faithful Christians must not treat corrupt Christians like nonbelievers. Corrupt Christians must be avoided..... that is, excommunicated.)

However, it is important to know that the “medication” for corrupted Christians must be applied differently than the “medication” for nonbelievers. If you offer people who say they are Christians the “medication” and they refuse to accept it, than you must “turn away” from them, the same way you would avoid someone who has a contagious deadly disease. Have no fellowship or intimacy with them! You will definitely catch the disease. **No exceptions!**

Notice, as mentioned above in 2Tim. 3:7 “**Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth**”, it is saying that these people are “**ever learning**” (constantly learning) and yet they cannot come to the truth (solution of the problems). Nowadays, there is a never ending mountain of books and seminars about that type of “self-_____” stuff from people who have received doctorate degrees and who are constantly studying. But, every year, more and more people who listen to those (quack) doctors, (quack) books and (quack) seminars have personal problems that just get worse and worse. They are quacks because they have rejected the Word of God.

Every year, a higher percentage of people in the US are having severe mental, emotional and spiritual problems. There has never been a time in the history of America that such an extremely high percentage of the people need special help..... and there has never been so many people trained with special education for the purpose of providing that help. Amazingly, their education is actually producing and intensifying the problems..... so that they can make good money pretending to cure those problems. What a job!!!

Meanwhile, the people with those problems don't realize that the professionals they go to for help are actually intensifying the problems. Neither do they realize that many of those professionals are having many of those same problems themselves. (Which is a justifiable payback for deliberately corrupting other people.)

Why do they call doctors who don't know what they're talking about “quacks”? When a bunch of ducks walk together, each duck waddles back and forth with its head

held high as though he is very important. The “self-important” waddling itself is very comical. As they waddle along with an air of “self-importance”, each duck tries to quack louder than all of the other ducks so that what he says will sound more important than any of the other ducks. (The larger the group, the louder the quacking.) But, none of the ducks are ever listening to what any of the other ducks are saying. Each duck wants to be heard above all the others. The sound itself of the quacking that the ducks make is very comical.

It would be a good idea if the people in the artificial duck call business (like Duck Dynasty) could make a musical duck call, like a clarinet, a real musical instrument, properly tuned so that it could produce real music with the comical sound of an artificial duck call. Maybe they could make just a mouthpiece that could fit onto a clarinet or saxophone. Those mouthpieces are detachable. For serious quacking they could use a bass clarinet or bass saxophone. Laughter, if it is applied correctly, can have very significant healing properties; it's very therapeutic. (People in low spirits don't heal as well as people in high spirits.) (Technically speaking: The American Journal of Medicine has found that **laughter** “..... increases secretion of catecholamines (adrenaline hormone) and endorphins (pain blocker)... which in turn increases oxygenation of the blood, relaxes the arteries... speeds up the heart, decreases blood pressure... which has a positive effect on all cardiovascular and respiratory ailments... as well as overall increasing the immune system response.”)

Those “quack” doctors (especially psychiatrists and church leaders) would get a lot better results if they played a musical duck call for their patients..... of course, they'll have to be sure to play it very loud so that everyone will think they really know what they're quacking about. They could teach their patients how to play quack songs, too. Songs like “pop goes the weasel” would be particularly therapeutic. Curly, one of the three stooges, turned into superman when he heard that song. (See three stooges episode “punch drunks” on YouTube.)

As stated, the people in the professions of church leaders and psychologists in America commonly have had many cases of those severe problems themselves. These are the people that are supposed to have the solutions to those problems. It wouldn't be surprising if they are having more of those problems than anyone else. This is kind of like an auto mechanic who can't fix his own car. Many people come to those psychologists for help, but they usually go out no better than when they came in. Most of the time, they go out worse than when they came in. Despite those “experts’ ” (quacks) mountains of learning, books, degrees and seminars, they are completely incapable of helping others or themselves to overcome those problems.

Therefore, it must be recognized that they are incompetent and disqualified from their professions. They are quacks. Also, the quack universities and colleges where they graduated from are hereby disqualified from giving diplomas in these fields of study. They would get better results by giving musical duck call lessons and then let

their patients read the Bible for themselves. They could also listen to audio recordings of someone reading the Bible. (recordings at: www.audiotreasure.com.)

Many of the people who have those serious mental and emotional problems say that they are Christians; however, they have rejected the “**truth**” of God's Word. (2Tim. 3:7 “**Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth**”) Many of them have cut their consciences. 1Tim. 4:2 “**Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;**” KJV If they have truly cut their consciences, then they are beyond hope. Many of them are actually followers of Lucifer, only pretending to be Christians. (Mat. 13:24-30)

If they say they are Christians and they refuse to listen to the Word of God, then stay away from them, even if they are your own wife or husband! Separate from them! They have a contagious lethal disease. They are usually children of Satan pretending to be Christians hoping to contaminate the church with their negative influence. (contagious disease) If they say they are Christians, do not even eat with them! 1Cor. 5:9-13 “**I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with (have fellowship with) fornicators: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother (fellow Christian) be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore **put away** from among yourselves that wicked person.” The phrase “**put away**” means to excommunicate, throw them out of the church and away from all fellowship, like not eating with them, as though they have a contagious lethal disease.**

Some people inappropriately use the word “judge” in these cases. They might say something like: “you're not supposed to judge other people” or “you're not supposed to judge me” or “you're not my judge”. Mat 7:1,2 “**Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2- For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure (amount) ye mete (assign), it shall be measured to you again.**” However, they are misapplying the word “judge” as meaning “passing judgment” or treating someone else with a condemning judgmental attitude inappropriately, which is usually accompanied with arrogance.

Many people use this twisted analogy in order to permit themselves to continue doing any conduct they want and inappropriately prohibit anyone else from telling them otherwise, claiming that nobody else has any right “judging” them. The people in Sodom said the same thing to Lot when he asked them not to commit their sin. (Gen 19:7) Gen 19:9 **And they said, This one fellow came in to sojourn (stop over), and he will needs be a judge:**”. This was followed by God raining fire down from heaven on the city, and destroying everyone, after Lot had left the city. Imagine, if they had listened to Lot, they wouldn't have been judged and condemned by God; they would **not** have died. (Gen 19:24)

The correct terminology that should be used here is “discernment”. [1Co 2:14](#) “..... because they are spiritually discerned.” [1Co 6:2,3](#) “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?” The word “judge” should be understood in these cases as the word “discern”.

Discernment is not only permitted, but it is required. It is **commanded** by God to use “discernment”. Without “discernment” a person would fall into following spiritual error. Discernment is absolutely necessary in order to avoid falling into the same sin and corruption that other people have fallen into. [Psa 1:1](#) “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.” How is it possible to avoid these types of people if you can't “judge” (discern) that they have truly fallen into error?

Sometimes, those people in error might think that the person offering the medication is somehow copping a bad attitude of arrogant superiority. They might respond by saying something like: “I'm just as good as you”, or “you're not perfect either, so worry about cleaning up your own back yard first”. If someone came into a hospital with a contagious lethal disease, would these responses seem appropriate when they were offered the medication? Why should they refuse the medication and say something like: “I'm just as good as you”? Is it not clear that the person with the disease is the one with the attitude of superiority? Regardless of which, if you want to avoid catching their disease you have to stay away from them.

Even in secular law, someone who maintains fellowship with a known criminal is considered an “accomplice” in the crimes. But how could you ever avoid a criminal if you thought that it is inappropriate to “judge” anyone. You would end up chumming around with the wrong type of friends..... and eventually becoming like them. Human beings are creatures of influence and habit; bad habits rub off. Imagine visiting your brother's house and seeing a big pile of money on the floor. Then you ask him where he got all that money from, and he replies that he just robbed a bank. Would you ignore it and sit down and chat as though the pile of money wasn't there? Would you sit down and eat with him? If you did and the police came in, they wouldn't take just your brother away to prison, they would take you away to prison as well, you would be an accomplice to the crime by refusing to report it. However, if, when you saw the money, you sharply rebuked him and demanded fiercely that he returns it..... and then you refused to do anything else with him (no chatting, no eating), this may be just what he would need to get him to return the money and keep both him and you out of prison and then afterwards you could feel free to start chatting and eating with him again.

The case with nonbelievers is different than it is with Christians who have been corrupted. Notice how, in [1Cor. 5:9](#) above written, it talks about some confusion over

the term: “**company with**” (have fellowship with) people living in sin. Obviously, if this was applied to nonbelievers it would be impossible for faithful Christians to take the message of God’s salvation to sinners, hoping to convert them. [Matt 9:10-12](#) “**And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat (to eat) in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole (well) need not a physician, but they that are sick.**” (Also: [Luke 5:30-31](#); [7:36-50](#); [15:1-32](#)) (However, notice that Jesus never stayed long term with anyone who did not repent and turn to God.)

This process of separation from corrupt Christians used to be called “excommunication”, that is, officially throwing someone out of the church. In modern times, due to the failure to practice this, **all** the churches are so corrupt that the few faithful Christians must “excommunicate” all of the corrupt churches from themselves as individuals. Instead of the church excommunicating an individual, the individual must excommunicate the church.

During the “dark” ages the state Church of Rome (Catholic) used to get the secular authorities all through Europe to execute (burn at the stake) any person excommunicated from the state church (Catholic). This is probably one of the main reasons why they called it the “dark” ages. (Another reason it was called the “dark” ages was that the people did not have the Bible in a language they could understand; They only had a corrupt Latin translation.) (See article listed below on: The Holy Scriptures)

However, many people thought that the ones doing the executing were worse “heretics” than the supposed “heretics” that were being executed. Many of the “heretics” who were murdered were faithful Christians who spoke out against the corruption of the Roman Catholic Church. But, this type of execution was never taught in the New Testament. The NT teaches to stay away from heretics (excommunicate), it does not say to kill them. The excommunication provides them the opportunity to repent and get right with God..... And then return to fellowship.

In the Old Testament, before Christ, executions were normally done by stoning. The entire town would all gather around the criminal(s) and everyone would all throw rocks at them until they died. Some examples: [Lev 20:27](#) “**A man also or a woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones; their blood shall be upon them.**” [Lev 24:16](#) “**And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him:.....**” [Lev 20:10](#) “**And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife,, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.**” [Lev 20:13](#) “**And if a man lie with mankind, as with womankind, both of them have committed abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.**” ([Lev 20:2](#))

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ taught forgiveness along with the expectation of repentance. It is very common in modern churches that they teach forgiveness

correctly, but then the insistence on repentance is forgotten or ignored. Many people think of how Jesus forgave the adulteress woman, but then they forget His last words to her: [John 8:11](#) “..... go thy way; from henceforth (this point on) sin no more.” And faithful Christians are expected to do the same thing: forgive and then insist on repentance.

But, what usually happens in modern times, is that some people get converted and even join a church and yet continue in their previous sins..... and the church leaders do nothing about it. In some cases even prostitutes, Nazis, Satanists or assassins get converted and become members of the church..... and yet continue in their professions/sins.

There was once a famous evangelist who was an example of a good man of God who converted many, many souls. He was one of the greatest evangelists in the history of the church..... and yet he was negligent to observe that the prostitutes who were being saved were continuing in their professions and even using their dirty money to donate to the church..... until his enemies finally exposed and publicized his erroneous negligence..... but the enemies claimed he was doing it knowingly. They spread the news that he was running a dirty prostitution business, on the side, to support his church. However, in reality, he was not guilty of supporting the church with a dirty business, but he was guilty of negligence. He did not demand repentance among the new converts. He was probably not even paying any attention at all to them. More than likely, it was the enemies from the other churches who wanted to bring him down who sent the prostitutes.

There are some other church leaders who even make up excuses why they knowingly let the new people continue in their sins like: they're just baby Christians and they can't be expected to live a holy life yet. (This is not due to negligence, but to deliberate corruption.) Whereas, the very first thing that both Jesus and John the Baptizer preached was: “repent” ([Mat. 3:2](#) [Mat. 4:17](#))

Such new converts should be thrown out of the church. (Excommunicated) In this case, the corrupt leaders should be thrown out along with the new members who continue in their sin. Those church leaders usually don't want to throw them out because those leaders want a big fat church with lots of donations, not a little church with a few donations. In their case, it's not even a question of excommunication. Those leaders don't even want to say anything to the new converts about repentance because they know that most of them will stop coming as soon as they are confronted with it. Any Christian who wants to be faithful to God must reject these types of church leaders. Stay away from them.

But, in most cases, especially in a society that is accustomed to the modern “lukewarm” (love of money) Christian lifestyle, it is necessary to give them a good rebuke. [Tit 1:13](#) “....Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith”. Who knows, maybe if you rebuke the corrupt Christians sharply (like the brother bank robber mentioned above) and then deny them fellowship after their refusal to accept the medication, (medication = obedience to the Word of God, repen-

tance from corruption) it might be just what they need to wake them up from their corruption and turn them from their sin, provided that they have not crossed the line of no return. [James 5:19, 20](#) “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.” KJV [Gal. 6:1,2](#) “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

But, occasionally it happens that a few people get carried away with rebuking, and start to treat it as an end in itself. The purpose of rebuking is to get the person(s) to repent of their sins. But, if the rebuking turns into just rebuking, rebuking, rebuking, rebuking, then its correct purpose has been lost. They end up imagining that the rebuking is a show of their own spirituality, and get puffed up with pride. If he doesn't insist on repentance, the rebuke ends up corrupting himself. [Gal 6:1](#) “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”

When the rebuker continues to maintain fellowship with the people he has rebuked and/or continues to accept their donations..... when they don't repent, then what **always, always, always** happens in real life is that the rebuker falls into the same type of error as the people he has been rebuking. If a rebuked Christian refuses to repent, then they must be excommunicated from the church and fellowship. Hopefully, if the rebuking has been applied correctly, the person in error will repent and be fully accepted back into fellowship. [Luke 15:7](#) “..... joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.”

The practice of “rebuking” is very important, but must be done correctly. The sin must be stated clearly, and the persons involved must be stated clearly. And the objective of repentance must be the clear purpose of the “rebuking”. [Mat 18:15-17](#) “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16- But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17- And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.” On those rare occasions that “rebuking” seems to be used excessively and inappropriately, usually it ends up being more like a “show” intended to impress people.

Faithful Christians must put their hopes on the next life, which will be far better than this one. [Mat 19:27-29](#) “Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? 28- And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29- And every one that hath for-

saken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.” KJV (Also: [Luke 18:28-30](#)) **And then,** [Mat 16:23](#) “But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.”

If someone you love is on the road to disaster and you do not warn them in the strongest manner possible, can you really truthfully say that you love them? Do you really believe that they are on the road to disaster or are you just too comfortable and want to avoid an unpleasant conflict? If you live only in comfort in this life and refuse to carry the cross of Christ, what will happen to you in the next life? [Luke 9:23-26](#) “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow me. 24- For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. 25- For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? 26- For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.” KJV [Mat 10:34-39](#) “Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35- For I am come to set a man at variance (divided) against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36- And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. 37- He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38- And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. 39- He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.” (Also: [1Pet. 4:1,2](#) [1Tim. 5:6](#))

There is also another aspect of “self-esteem” or “self-image” which is more like “self-evaluation” and/or “self-motivation” concerning the ability to perform a certain skill or talent, as compared to the “evaluation” and/or “motivation” by other people concerning the ability of another person to perform a certain skill or talent. For example, suppose a student loved baseball and wanted to be on the school's baseball team, but he had such a low “self-evaluation” of his own ability to play sports that he never tried out for the team. (Notice – this example must be used with caution. In modern times many people have converted “sports” into a religion. Sometimes they worship their favorite “sport” more than they worship God.) (In conclusion, is this goal really worth pursuing?)

But suppose that same student went to a special teacher who taught him how to improve his ability in athletics. (In theory, the school's physical education teachers are supposed to be doing this, but they usually don't. You would think that they should be like a coach on one of the school's athletic teams, training the players how to improve their abilities. But, in public schools, a physical education teacher is usually one of the biggest “do nothing” jobs in America. The only thing that can be learned from a physi-

cal education teacher is that if someone wants to get a job with comfortable pay with practically no work to do, it would be physical education teacher. They are almost as big “do nothings” as the typical American missionaries who go to a foreign country living the lazy good life, sponging off American missionary support money. They're making good comfortable pay with **no** work to do.)

So, imagine that this student actually somehow gets a special teacher. It is possible that after some good training that this student would have a higher “self-evaluation” and consider himself able to try out for the school's baseball team. However, he still wouldn't be on the team until the coach's “evaluation” of his abilities is high enough to make the team..... which, is very important to be recognized as **not** “self-evaluation”, “self-image” or “self-esteem”. It is the “evaluation” or “esteem” of the coach (someone else) for that student. It is **not** a “self-to-self” situation; other people are involved.

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