

Celebrate Recovery

Written by Administrator

Monday, 07 September 2009 16:52 - Last Updated Saturday, 21 November 2015 15:41



Monday at 6:00 pm

Have you ever been addicted to something so strongly that you just couldn't quit? Maybe it was drinking, smoking, drugs, sex or something else....

At age 13 I became an alcoholic. Drinking and getting into trouble until I was rescued at age 23. Today if that is you , please email me and let us help you quit morgan@oaausa.com .

A letter from the Founder of Celebrate recovery: Pastor Rick Warren (A Purpose Driven Life author)

You've undoubtedly heard the expression that "time heals all wounds." Unfortunately, it isn't true. As a pastor I frequently talk with people who are still carrying hurts from 30 or 40 years ago. The truth is - time often makes things worse. Wounds that are left untended fester and spread infection throughout your entire body. Time only extends the pain if the problem isn't dealt with.

What we need is a biblical and balanced program to help people overcome their hurts, habits and hang-ups. ***Celebrate Recovery is that program.*** Based on the actual words of Jesus rather than psychological theory, our recovery program is unique, and more effective in helping people change than anything else I've seen or heard of. Over the years I've witnessed how the Holy Spirit has used this program to transform literally thousands of lives and help people grow toward full Christlike maturity.

Most people are familiar with the classic 12 step program of A.A. and other groups. While undoubtedly many lives have been helped through the twelve steps, I've always been uncomfortable with that program's vagueness about the nature of God, the saving power of

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Jesus Christ, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. So I began an intense study of the Scriptures to discover what God had to say about "recovery." To my amazement, I found the principles of recovery, and even ***their logical order***, given by Christ in his most famous message, the Sermon on the Mount.

My study resulted in a ten-week series of messages called "**The Road to Recovery**." During that series, my Associate Pastor John Baker developed the workbooks, which became the heart of our Celebrate Recovery program. I believe that this program is unlike any recovery program you may have seen.

There are seven features that make it unique:

This recovery program is based on God's Word, the Bible. When Jesus taught the Sermon on the Mount, he began by stating "Eight Ways to Be Happy." Today we call them the Beatitudes. From a conventional viewpoint, most of these statements didn't make sense. They sounded like contradictions. But when you fully understand what Jesus is saying, you'll realize that these eight principles are God's road to recovery, wholeness, growth, and spiritual maturity.

This recovery program is forward-looking. Rather than wallowing in the past, or dredging up and rehearsing painful memories over and over, Celebrate Recovery focuses on the future. Regardless of what has already happened, the solution is to start making wise choices now and depend on Christ's power to help me make those changes.

This recovery program emphasizes personal responsibility. Instead of playing the "accuse and excuse" game of victimization, this program helps people face up to their own poor choices and deal with what they can do something about. We cannot control all that happens to us. But we can control how we respond to everything. That is a secret of happiness. When we stop wasting time fixing the blame, we have more energy to fix the problem. When you stop hiding your own faults and stop hurling accusations at others, then the healing power of Christ can begin working in your mind, will, and emotions.

This recovery program emphasized spiritual commitment to Jesus Christ. The 3rd principle calls for people to make a total surrender of their lives to Christ. Lasting recovery cannot happen without this step. Everybody needs Jesus. Celebrate Recovery is thoroughly

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evangelistic in nature.

This recovery program utilizes the biblical truth that we need each other in order to grow spiritually and emotionally. It is built around small group interaction and the fellowship of a caring community. There are many therapies, growth programs, and counselors today that are built around one-on-one interaction. But Celebrate Recovery is built on the New Testament principle that we don't get well by ourselves. We need each other. Fellowship and accountability are two important components of spiritual growth. If your church is interested in starting small groups, this is a great way to get started.

This recovery program addresses all types of habits, hurts and hang-ups. Some recovery programs deal only with alcohol or drugs or another single problem. But Celebrate Recovery is a "large umbrella" program under which a limitless number of issues can be dealt with. At Saddleback Church, only one out of three who attend Celebrate Recovery are dealing with alcohol or drugs. We have dozens of other specialized groups too.

Dr. Rick Warren
Senior Pastor
Saddleback Church

CELEBRATE RECOVERY'S EIGHT RECOVERY PRINCIPLES

The Road to Recovery

Based on the Beatitudes

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."

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 how mourn, for they shall be comforted."

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Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control. (Step 3)
"Happy are the meek."

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."

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"*

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."
"Happy are the peacemakers"

Reserve a 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)

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."