



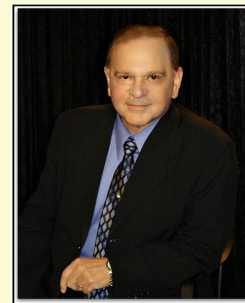
The OMEGA E-Newsletter

E-Newsletter of Omega Bible Institute and Seminary
3rd Quarter 2021

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

By Henry A. Harbuck/ Ph.D., Th.D., D.Sc., OBIS 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 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, they 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 and a computer.

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. ♥

ANNOUNCEMENT

FEATURED STUDENTS

John Parker, *Administrative Pastor & ICCA Chaplain*

Upon the advice and encouragement from my pastor, mentor, and brother in the Lord, I enrolled at Omega to measure my knowledge and understanding of my faith and better equip me for my call and work in church eldership and chaplaincy. From the outset, the coursework created an excitement and yearning for the study of all things about God. Although I found myself to have a basic knowledge in several areas of study, the coursework and the excellent materials created in me a desire to complete the journey through degree process. The studies have brought me closer to Jesus. Thank you Omega.



Corey Watson,

Bachelor of Christian Counseling/student

My experience with Omega Bible Institute and Seminary has been a very enlightening one! I gave my life to Christ in 2018 and since I’ve enrolled in this great institution it

allowed me to grow closer to God. The courses that I've taken thus far have enriched me deeply and has allowed me to boldly approach my Christian walk and spread the Gospel boldly in many ways. I'm sure that I'll be well equipped to execute my duties as a Christian Counselor in my church upon completion of my studies. This experience has been phenomenal!



Omega Bible Institute and Seminary wants to reconnect and stay in touch with its Alumni worldwide. Through our online newsletter we are giving opportunities to all Omega graduates and students who want to be featured in our newsletter. This way we will know how Omega helped you and served as a vehicle to reach your God-given purpose.

We would be over-joyed to receive a written testimony from you or articles that you wrote personally.

**You can send these via email to
admin@omega.edu or mail to**

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- *Doctor of Theology*
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In honor of America's birthday, we will be closed on Monday, July 5th. Our regular schedule will resume on Tuesday. We wish you a safe, happy, and enjoyable holiday!

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!!!

We look forward to hearing from you...

Omega Bible Institute & Seminary

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Monday-Friday, 8AM - 3PM, CST

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