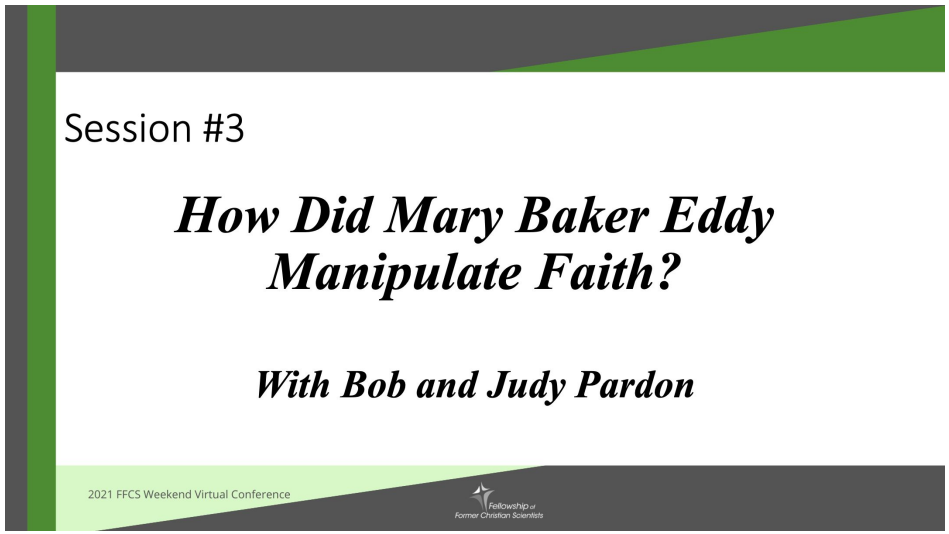




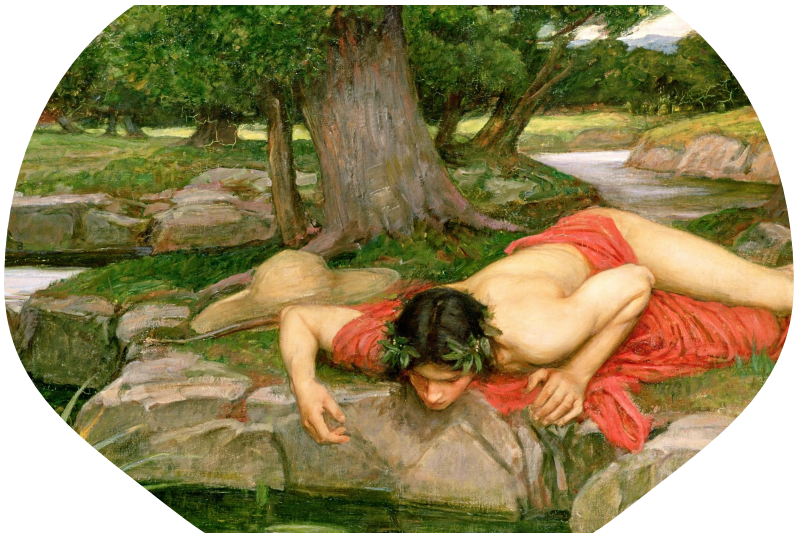
The Bible And Extreme Pride

"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer." I Timothy 4:1-5

"People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people." II Timothy 3:2-5



"Individuals with narcissistic personality disorder generally believe that the world revolves around them. This condition is characterized by a lack of ability to empathize with others and a desire to keep the focus on themselves at all times." **Psychology Today**



Causes of Narcissistic Personality Disorder

"Pathological narcissism is a ubiquitous phenomenon because every human being, regardless of the nature of his society and culture, develops healthy narcissism early in life. Healthy narcissism is rendered pathological by abuse, and abuse, sadly, is a universal human behavior. By "abuse" we mean any refusal to acknowledge the emerging boundaries of the individual." Sam Vaknin

CAUSES OF NPD:

- Not yet well-understood
- Genetic and biological factors
- Environment Factors
- Early life experiences.

*These are thought to play a role in the development of this condition

It is described as an all-pervasive pattern of grandiosity (in fantasy or behavior), need for admiration or adulation and lack of empathy. It usually begins by early adulthood and is present in various contexts. Five (or more) of the following criteria *must* be met.

(all quotes in **GREEN** from Dr. Sam Vaknin's **Malignant Self Love: Narcissism Revisited**

1. Feels grandiose and self-importance (e.g., exaggerates achievements and talents to the point of lying, demands to be recognized as superior without commensurate achievements);

"The narcissist is prone to magical thinking. He thinks about himself in terms of 'being chosen' or of 'having a destiny'. …He believes that his life is of such momentous importance, that it is micro-managed by God. …In short, narcissism and religion go well together, because religion allows the narcissist to feel unique."



(MBE speaking to J. Bartlett) "There should be a substitute for me to lead this people and now dear Student, I ask you will you take this place not that you can unloose the sandals of my shoes not that you can fill my place but only that I think you rather more fit for it than anyone I leave."

Julia Bartlett, quoted in **The Religion That Kills**, L. Kramer

"No human pen nor tongue taught me the Science contained in this book, Science and Health; and neither tongue nor pen can overthrow it."

Mary Baker Eddy, **Science and Health**

"Often I heard her say with great impressiveness that in over forty years of church leadership, she had not made a mistake, a record that is most truly remarkable."

Adam Dickey, quoted in **The Religion That Kills**, L. Kramer

"I did not choose to be your leader: God chose me! I merely obeyed!"

David Berg, **Children of God**

"I (Spriggs) must begin by saying that the only authority I have to be called an apostle is my fruit, of course authority comes from God, but is recognized by men according to its fruit its practicality (sic)"

Elbert Spriggs, **Twelve Tribes**

"Out of all the saints sent by God, I think I am the most successful one already as it now stands."

Sun Myung Moon, **Unification Church**

"God is everything the narcissist ever wants to be: omniscient, omnipresent, admired, much discussed, and awe inspiring." Sam Vaknin



2. Is obsessed with fantasies of unlimited success, fame, fearsome power or omnipotence, unequalled brilliance (the cerebral narcissist), bodily beauty or sexual performance (the somatic narcissist), or ideal, everlasting, all-conquering love or passion;

"The narcissist is haunted by the feeling that he is possessed of a mission, of a destiny, that he is a part of fate, of history. He is convinced that his uniqueness is purposeful, that he is meant to lead, chart new ways, to innovate to modernize, to reform, to set precedents, to create. Every act is significant, every writing of momentous consequences, every thought of revolutionary caliber. He feels part of a grand design, a world plan…"

"Mrs. Eddy was at the head of a great Movement, a Church that had grown up under divine direction and was designed, eventually, to destroy all evil and to bring to suffering humanity a remedy for every form of sickness and sin. The same form of evil that attacked Jesus…"

Adam Dickey, quoted in **The Religion That Kills**, L. Kramer

"The whole world is in my hand, and I will conquer and subjugate the world." Sun Myung Moon, **Unification Church**

"As the last manifestation of God in flesh, he has established the government of God on earth as written in the gospel and NEVER does telethons for his radio or TV programs."
Jose Luis de Jesus Miranda, **Growing in Grace Web Site**

"We are the light and the hope of the world. We are the only ones who can reclaim this earth for its Maker. We are the only ones whose lives of love and pure devotion, like a bride for her groom, can bring heaven to earth. Elbert Spriggs, **Twelve Tribes**

Unique and Special

"Mrs. Eddy told her students that when her mother was pregnant with her, she suddenly felt that she was filled with the Holy Spirit and had 'dominion over the whole earth.' At the same moment she felt the 'quickening of the babe' and began to feel that the child was destined for a special, spiritual purpose." Linda Kramer, **The Religion That Kills**

"In his memoirs, Adam Dickey describes how difficult it was to find and maintain such a staff of (personal-rp) *workers. First of all, these people had to be successful Christian Scientists who had never been incapacitated (even though they might now be in perfect health). They had to be ready to follow Mrs. Eddy's orders implicitly and to be available on a moment's notice."*
quoted in **The Religion That Kills**, L. Kramer

3. Firmly convinced that he or she is unique and, being special, can only be understood by, should only be treated by, or associate with, other special or unique, or high-status people (or institutions);

"The narcissist despises the very people who sustain his Ego boundaries and functions. He cannot respect people so expressly and clearly inferior to him, …the risk of narcissistic injury in such associations being too great."

"Do I have a sweet loving name? Why? David means gift of God! I'm a gift of God! I was a gift of God to my mother and I am a gift of God to the whole World. I'm God's gift of Love–David."
David Koresh, **Branch Davidians**

"The time has come when the whole world must be concerned about me. From now on American Christianity must follow me."
Sun Myung Moon, **Unification Church**

4. Requires excessive admiration, adulation, attention and affirmation – or, failing that, wishes to be feared and to be notorious (Narcissistic Supply);

"A common error is to think that 'narcissistic supply' consists only of admiration, adulation and positive feedback. Actually, being feared, or derided is also supply. The main element is ATTENTION."

"He feeds off other people, who hurl back at him an image that he projects to them. This is their sole function in his world: to reflect, to admire, to applaud, to detest – in a word, to assure him that he exists."



"Up came the crowds to her side, begging for one hand-clasp, one look, one memorial of her, whose name was a power and sacred thing in their homes…" Linda Kramer, **The Religion That Kills**

"'She expressed herself in increasingly strong and authoritative language to her followers and, sometimes, probably stepped beyond the bounds of what she would like to have been remembered for.'"
R. Nenneman, quoted in **The Religion That Kills**, L. Kramer

"Am I foolish or am I great? I gave all the individuals in the world cause to kneel down in front of me."
Sun Myung Moon, **Unification Church**

"Although his first healing attempts were a waste of energy, he kept working on his technique. If only he could attract the tremendous crowds… (he desired to help people-rp)*, but under that was a personal need to be admired, loved and lauded by the crowds."*
David Koresh, **Branch Davidians**





5. Feels entitled. Expects unreasonable or special and favorable priority treatment. Demands automatic and full compliance with his or her expectations;

"He considers his very existence as sufficiently nourishing and sustaining (of others). He feels entitled to the best others can offer without investing in maintaining relationships or in catering to the well-being of his 'suppliers'."

"Mrs. Patterson (MBE)… although in a state of almost absolute destitution, retained the air of a grand lady which had so characterized her in her youth. Although visiting at a farmhouse where everyone had a part in the household duties, (she) was always the guest of honor, nor did it occur to anyone to suggest her sharing the daily routine. Mrs. Crosby's servants waited upon (her) and even her room was cared for by others. …Mrs. Crosby admits that she was completely under Mrs. Patteron's spell…"

Cather and Milmine, quoted in **The Religion That Kills**, L. Kramer

"Mrs. Eddy demanded that the items in her home remain exactly as she originally had them placed. …her workers finally set a tack under each item so that it could be maintained in its precisely designated location. Mrs. Eddy also required that meals be served exactly on time and perfectly cooked. Even her pin cushion was in perfect order." Linda Kramer, **The Religion That Kills**

"The minister would recline on a couch with blankets and pillows, stretched out comfortably while dozens of others packed into a tiny room, most sitting on the floor. Next to 'Father' stood a table with juices and other drinks, and a platter with cheese, turkey, chicken breasts, sliced beef or the like." Jim Jones, **Peoples' Temple**

"Later, Vernon Howell (David Koresh) put his own interpretation on that holy decree: 'It means that the prophet owns everything, your house, your money, even your underwear. That means that when the prophet comes to your house at night and asks you to strip naked, you are obligated to God to hand over your underpants.'"
David Koresh, **Branch Davidians**

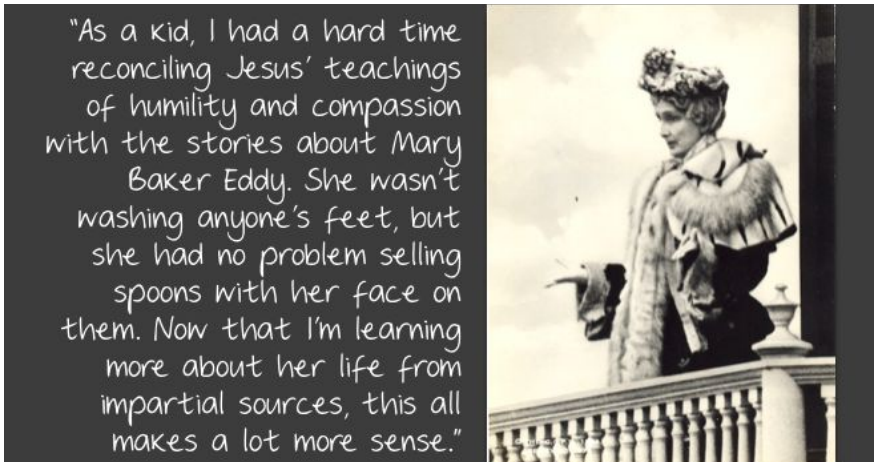
"Sales of Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures provided another long-term income stream. The so-called Christian Science 'textbook' was indeed priced like a textbook, approaching $100 in 2016 terms. Eddy revised it constantly (over 400 revisions), and she insisted that students should always have the most recent edition. Consequently, sales never declined with passing years–even if students upgraded only at major revisions. According to her publisher's accounts, she was paid $45,000 in royalties for the three years' sales ending in 1895[12]—well over $1 million in today's dollars." **The Ex-Christian Scientist Website**

6. Is "interpersonally exploitative", i.e., uses others to achieve his or her own ends;

"He will not hesitate to put people's lives or fortunes at risk. He will preserve his sense of infallibility in the face of his mistakes and misjudgments by distorting the facts, by evoking mitigating or attenuating circumstances, by repressing the memories, or simply lying."

"The Alamo's had persuaded followers to work at church owned enterprises for years in exchange for room, board and a few dollars a week." Tony Alamo, **Alamo Foundation**

The Lord *"...to break me and break my heart for the world and make me feel for them and be sad for them and love them and have compassion on them. That's why I was willing to even give our girls to save them, to try to win them for the Lord. I mean, any price is not too big to pay to save a soul!"* David Berg, **Children of God**



7. Devoid of empathy. Is unable or unwilling to identify with or acknowledge the feelings and needs of others;

"... the narcissist does not care. Unable to empathize, he does not fully experience the outcomes of his deeds and decision. For him, humans are dispensable, rechargeable, reusable. They are there to fulfill a function: to supply him with Narcissistic Supply (adoration, admiration, approval, affirmation, etc.). They do not have an existence apart from the carrying out of their duty."

"Declare that you are not hurt and understand the reason why, and you will find the ensuing good effects to be in exact proportion to your disbelief in physics…" Mary Baker Eddy, **Science and Health**

"One of Mrs. Eddy's students lost two children under Christian Science treatment 'with hardly a murmur.'"

Cather and Milmine, quoted in **The Religion That Kills**, L. Kramer

"Howell (David Koresh) *banished his then 3-year old son, Cyrus, to a garage in Pomona, CA, for the night, said James Tom, a former Branch Davidian. Howell reportedly told the boy there were rats in the garage who like to gnaw on children."*

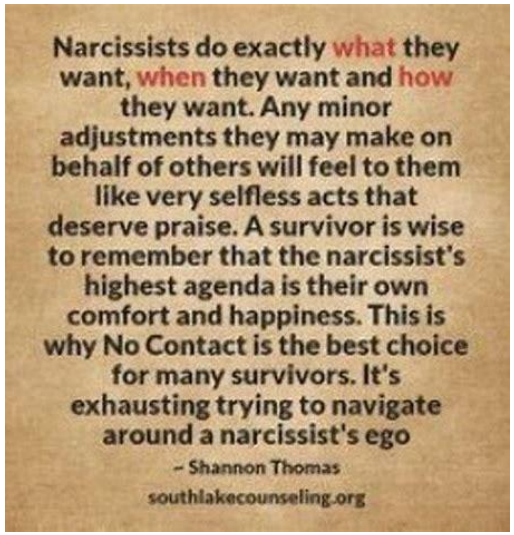
David Koresh, **Branch Davidians**

"Alamo issued orders over a speaker phone, listing each of the child's transgressions and dictated how many times to paddle the child. The child could not sit down without a pillow for 2-3 weeks."

Wikipedia

"There is no such thing as harsh treatment in any role of authority."

Elbert Spriggs, **Twelve Tribes**



8. Constantly envious of others or believes that they feel the same about him or her;

"…there is pathological envy. The narcissist is constantly envious of other people: their successes, their property, their character, their education, their children, their ideas, the fact that they can feel, their good mood, their past, their present, their spouses, their mistresses or lovers, their location."

A favorite student of Mrs. Eddy was Daniel Spofford. Cather and Milmine wrote, *"…she (MBE) turned a number of her students over to Mr. Spofford for instruction. …As a teacher, Mr. Spofford proved so popular that Mrs. Eddy repented the authority she had given him. His success in practice also made her restive, --doubtless one of the causes that led her to insist upon his turning his practice over… She often told Mr. Spofford that there was no such thing as devotion to the principle of revealed truth which did not include devotion to the revelator. 'I am wisdom, and this revelation is mine,'…"* quoted in **The Religion That Kills**, L. Kramer

"Some people may oppose me, but they will go down the drain after a while and end up in hell.... I came with the teaching that the world and religions should become one.... Soon, the American president will have to visit me to seek advice."

Sun Myung Moon, **Unification Church**

"I don't see anybody else, I don't see any other man with a message...." David Berg, **Children of God**

9. Arrogant, haughty behaviors or attitudes coupled with rage when frustrated, contradicted, or confronted.

"That which has cosmic implications calls for cosmic reactions. A person with an inflated sense of self-import, reacts in an exaggerated manner to threats, greatly inflated by his imagination and by the application of his personal myth."

"Narcissists live in a state of constant rage, repressed aggression, envy and hatred. They firmly believe that everyone is like them. As a result, they are paranoid, suspicious, scared and erratic."

"During a heated town hall meeting, Elbert Eugene Spriggs the reclusive and sole leader of the Twelve Tribes' Community, aimed a verbal barrage at Bob Pardon, director of New England Institute of Religious Research. After the verbal assault, Spriggs abruptly left the building." **Eyewitness Accounts**

"Koresh's face was white with rage. 'You've lied to the Lamb! How could you do this?' He screamed. The thirty men and women in the room turned to the object of his outrage - a terrified 18 year old girl. She cowered in the doorway…" David Koresh, **Branch Davidians**

"Mrs. Eddy held classes while Mr. Kennedy developed a successful healing practice using Mrs. Eddy's principles. …When Kennedy refused to change his healing techniques, Mrs. Eddy labeled him a mesmerist and turned him into the movement's greatest enemy. He was, one might say, the 'great Satan' and became the scapegoat for any negative occurrence in Mrs.Eddy's cause." L. Kramer, **The Religion That Kills**

She *"would draw up her shoulders, look her opponent in the eye, and say very slowly, 'God has directed me in this matter. Have you anything further to say?'"*

Cather and Milmine, quoted in **The Religion That Kills**, L. Kramer

"If a person already has a propensity for narcissism, I definitely think Christian Science can nudge them over the edge. A central teaching of Christian Science is that we are all 'perfect' reflections of God. A phrase I often heard while growing up was that I was the "perfect child of God". This whole idea is like catnip for narcissists: it's all about 'me'; I am 'perfect', I am infallible." **Former Christian Scientist**



Life In Christian Science!!

"…Like his disorder, the cult leader is all-pervasive. Being the victim of a cult leader is a condition no less pernicious (causing harm or ruin) than being a cult leader. Great efforts are required to abandon a cult leader and physical separation is only the first (and less consequential) step. One can abandon a cult leader – but the cult leader is slow to "abandon" his victims. He is there, lurking, rendering existence unreal, twisting and distorting with no respite (no let up), an inner, remorseless voice, lacking in compassion and empathy for his victims. The cult leader is there in spirit long after he has vanished in the flesh."

"Surviving the Narcissist" by **Sam Vaknin**

Consequences of Narcissistic Personality Disorder

"The hearts of cult leader's victims are captivated. They love monsters. They try to understand abusers. They make excuses for the inexcusable. They mitigate their private holocaust. They legitimize abhorrent crimes. They lie to themselves. They are immorally not in touch with their real emotions. And, this way, they perpetuate their own abuse, their own torture, they collaborate with the terrorists that are and were their only family."

"Surviving the Narcissist" by **Sam Vaknin**

Cure

- Must move on to preserve your mental health. You must abandon the Narcissist. This is a process.
- Then you must grieve. Being betrayed and abused, you must then grieve. You lost yourself, years of life.
- But you must get beyond this because to not do so becomes a permanent perpetuation of your abuse by other means.
- Then you must forgive. It is by moving on that you defeat your abuser, minimizing him/her and his/her importance in your life.
- It is by loving and trusting anew that you heal.
- To forgive is not to forget. But remembering need not be reliving.

CONCLUSION:

- Recognize → Own → Grieve → Forgive → Move On

(to trust and love anew)