

Outline – October 3, 2021  
Acts 9:1-9; Acts 22:6-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-15  
The Conversion Of A Narcissist

Sin Nature Means We Are Broken, Separated, And Malfunction

- I. **The consequence of our sin nature**
  - A. Separates us from God
  - B. Causes pain, division, destruction in our lives
  - C. It hurts us and those connected to us
  - D. It is the cause of death (Romans 6:23)
  - E. Though sin separates us, not all sin is equal (gossip v. adultery, lying v. abuse)
- II. **The study of the soul (Psychology)**
  - A. Sin causes us to malfunction
  - B. Psychology gives our sin nature some:
    - 1. Clarity
    - 2. Definition
    - 3. Characteristics
    - 4. Distinguished traits
    - 5. Symptoms
  - C. In the 1970's, field of psychology was restructured
    - 1. A distinction between symptoms (short lived) and characteristics (lifelong) was made
    - 2. The difference between something being broken and something missing in the person
    - 3. Characteristics were seen as constant, inherited, imbedded
    - 4. In 1980, the diagnostic criteria of personality disorders were born
    - 5. Today there are 10 primary personality disorders, divided into 3 clusters...
    - 6. This is more than tendencies, or seasons, or moments in life, but a daily struggle of characteristics that hurt you and others. (These individuals are noted throughout the Bible and God's interaction with them)
- III. **The narcissist (personality disorder)**
  - A. The characteristics
    - 1. They have difficulty in relationships (problems with others, avoided)
    - 2. Self-proclaimed "watch dog" knows it all, "my way or highway" grandiose beliefs, desires
    - 3. Wants to be in charge by virtue of entitlement
    - 4. Consistent disregard and disrespect of others
    - 5. Obsessed with power and control
    - 6. Lacks empathy

7. Displays arrogance
  8. Thinks criticism is a "spiritual gift"
  9. Puts obligations on others (they could not live up to)
  10. Control, control, control of others
- B. What they create (an environment)
1. Feeling controlled (you ought, you should, you better)
  2. Oppressed
  3. Anxiety – (walking on eggshells)
  4. Detachment, division, disconnect
  5. People feel sed
  6. People feel unfit
  7. People feel degraded
- C. How do they get that way?
1. Inherited
  2. Reinforced
  3. Over indulged
  4. Over reaction
  5. "Drunk" with power

#### IV. An example of a narcissist in the scripture

- A. Saul of Tarsus
1. Powerful, grandiose, religious, but not saved
  2. Controlling – bully
  3. Oppressive, dominating, shrewd
  4. Zealous – threatening
  5. Lacked empathy
  6. No boundaries – respected
  7. Desire to punish
- B. How does God deal with the narcissist?
1. Connects with power, flattens him to the ground, blinded him – humbled him before others, rebukes him "Saul, Saul"
  2. Conviction – Jesus asks
    - a. "Why are you doing this?"
      - Why the rejection?
      - Why the persecution?
      - Why the oppression?
      - Why the destruction?

(Because you can)  
(Because it doesn't line-up with your agenda)
    - b. Lord makes it clear to persecute His people is to persecute Him. We are one with Messiah.
    - c. Why the rejection of: God's offer, God's gift, God's grace?  
Why don't you believe?
    - d. Saul knows he has been indicted

- e. He is broken, humbled, shattered
  - f. His rebellion, resistance, resentment was now causing him pain
- V. **Saul – choices (your choices)**
- A. Surrender to God's will, God's grace, God's call, God's purpose
  - B. Suffer with a hardened heart, selfish life, a tormented eternity
- VI. **Saul's conversion**
- A. A humbled heart
  - B. A changed direction
  - C. A Savior and Lord
  - D. Friends now enemies, enemies now friends
  - E. Fighting his old nature, would be ongoing
  - F. His name is changed to Paul
- VII. **God used him**
- A. To plant churches
  - B. To convince philosophers, leaders, and dignitaries
  - C. He defended the faith
  - D. He wrote scripture
  - E. He demonstrated how God gives grace

**There is Hope If We Submit To Him  
As Humility Takes Over Pride  
God Can Use You To Do Amazing Things**