

THE PEACEMAKER CENTER

Summer 2013



OUR MISSION

The mission of The Peacemaker Center is to help people find peace with God, themselves and with others through biblically-based counseling and conflict resolution.

The Peacemaker Center is open to anyone for help with:

- Individual, Group, Family Counseling
- Marital Counseling
- Grief and Loss Issues
- Depression
- Anger Management
- Eating Disorders
- Addictions
- Surviving Sexual Abuse
- Life Coaching
- Financial Counseling
- Preparing for Marriage
- Conciliation
- Other Mental Health Issues



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Truth or Feelings; It's a Choice

Peggy MacQueen, MS, LPC



Suffering. Even the word sounds painful, doesn't it? Who wants to experience suffering? Who wants to engage with it? However, we have been told in scripture that we will experience tribulations, (John 16:33). Will we experience suffering as Christ did on the cross? Will we feel that pain? Why must we? Being created in God's image as Christ, we will suffer and experience pain because we live in a fallen world and are members of a fallen race; MAN. Will we feel God's presence during our time of suffering or will we feel abandoned? Which will we choose to believe?

In the past weeks, the state of Oklahoma has experienced tornados that have wreaked havoc and destruction bringing loss and death. Many have lost their homes, their schools, and their loved ones, which include children. As a therapist, I sit with individuals who are suffering. I join with them as they walk a journey that involves pain and hardship. Often, they ask me, "What kind of God allows this pain?" "Why did God

allow this to happen?" "Why would God place this suffering upon me; my family?"

As Christians we can be confident that the Spirit of the Lord is within us. His *peace* is with us, 2 Corinthians says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is peace." We can be confident that his *presence* is with us. Romans 8:37 tells us that, "...neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." We have *power* to walk the journey of suffering. In addition to God's peace and His presence, we have His power. Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit".

God equips us to endure the journeys that include pain and suffering. It is during these trials that we must choose to believe TRUTH; that God is with us. The truth that God will never leave us nor forsake us; and the truth that God will be present with us, even during the dark periods when we feel He has abandoned us. Stand on the truth, and know that He is with us. Lamentations 3:32 says, "Though He brings grief, yet He will show compassion according to His unfailing love". Hold tight to this TRUTH and know that He is carrying you.

Donations Please!

The Peacemaker Center is looking for the following books for our library. Maybe you have a copy on your shelf that you would be willing to donate.

- * The 5 Love Languages—Chapman
- * The 5 Love Languages of Teenagers—Chapman
- * Boundaries— Cloud
- * Every Man's Battle—Arterburn
- * Get Out of the Pit—Moore
- * Healing is a Choice—Arterburn
- * Hope Again—Swindoll
- * How to Act Right When Your spouse Acts Wrong—Vernick
- * How to be a Hero to Your Kids—McDowell
- * Love & Respect—Eggerichs
- * New Dare to Discipline—Dobson
- * On the Threshold of Hope—Langberg
- * Path of Loneliness—Ellitt
- * Sacred Romance—Eldredge
- * Father Fiction (To Own a Dragon)—Miller
- * Worry-Free Living—Minirth
- * The Secrets Men Keep—Arterburn

Sociopaths Among Us

Andrea Roche, MA

"...he camouflaged his inner scorpion with an endearing cloak of charm. But it was entirely in his nature to sting you - as much as it was to convince you that he wouldn't." - Mike Dutton

This quote sounds like it comes from a horror movie or work of fiction. It didn't. What is in this article may be scary but it is based on research. It is included in our newsletter concerns well-meaning people, often believers in God, who are taken advantage of and harmed by others. They often stay committed in harmful relationships because of their faith and what they assume God wants them to do. This article describes the insidious nature of this pathology and the destructive nature that sociopaths have on our society.

Sociopaths, formally labeled as psychopaths, comprise over 2 million people in North America. Sociopaths hide behind the "Mask of Sanity" as Dr. Hervey Cleckley appropriately titled his publication about sociopaths. Sociopathy is Antisocial Personality Disorder diagnosed as early as 18 years old.

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Deuteronomy 31:6

So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.

It manifests as a moral deficiency condition where the person exhibits a certain pattern of perspectives and behavior with varying intensity and consistency characterized by manipulateness, irresponsibility, parasitic lifestyle, self-centeredness, grandiosity, pathological lying, shallowness, and ambiguity. **A fundamental trait of all Sociopaths is their absence of empathy.** They neither feel the emotions of others nor care about the destructive consequences incurred through their manipulations. Interactions with sociopaths leave people feeling anxious, demeaned, used or confused; they feel unsure of what they have seen or heard.

Sociopaths' behavior is driven by their insatiable need for dominance in order to meet their immediate needs and desires. Sociopaths can appear so normal on the surface - but they are profoundly different! They are devoid of feelings such as guilt, shame, remorse and a moral compass of right and wrong. **Sociopaths have an innate ability to manipulate and exploit with their winning smile, charming demeanor and fast talk.** For intimate partnerships sociopaths tend to target victims with certain personality traits: higher than average tolerance, and empathy, high relational investment, someone who seeks excitement and competition.

Sandra Brown author of the book, 'Women Who Love Psychopaths', reports that people who come out of pathological relationships having experienced boundary violations early on in the friendship/relationship. They were most likely compelled by the sociopath to complete tasks that were outside of their personal boundaries and comfort zone. . . late night meetings, compromising sexual requests, unannounced visits, and requests for money. Brown calls these the "Red Flags-Boundary Breakers." **Recognizing and understanding these destructive dynamics is the first step to recover from a harmful pathological relationship.** Most researchers think that it is unlikely that sociopaths can be taught empathy, therefore, in most cases disconnecting from them is the most effective way of starting the healing process.

Relationships in the church need to be handled with special care. Those in authority may be groomed and manipulated to encourage or force someone to stay in a harmful relationship. **Understanding that this type of person exists and recognizing the red flags is crucial.**

In conclusion, one caveat offered by R. Schouten & J. Silver in their book, 'Almost A Psychopath', "while it is important to trust your perceptions and concerns, try to remain open to the possibility that you may be misperceiving events or that the problems are transitory or have other explanations. "

Resources:

Snakes in Suits - Robert Hare, Paul Babiak

The Wisdom of Psychopaths - Mike Dutton

Almost A Psychopath - Ronald Schouten and James Silver

The Mask of Sanity - Hervey Cleckley

Women Who Love Psychopaths- Sandra Brown (www.saferrelationships magazine.com)



Do You Like To Shop?

Looking for good summer reading? Check out our website to see the books that our own counselors at The Peacemaker Center recommend:

www.thepeacemakercenter.org

Each time you begin with our page and enter **Amazon.com** a portion of the proceeds goes to The Peacemaker Center.

We also have a **book store** with suggested books for specific mental health needs.



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Thank You, UPS!

UPS graciously donated \$500 to our Boot Scootin' Ball and even brought volunteers to serve during the event! Thanks again for your support of The Peacemaker Center.



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