

THE FELLOWSHIP

Your World Recovered

October 2008

Volume 2

Introduction

The Fellowship is a newsletter published by the Chemical Recovery ministry. The Fellowship is making recovery far more exciting, provocative, and high-spirited (no pun intended), than our addiction ever was. The news of this world is dominated by an earthly perspective. The Fellowship is a refreshing view of "everything under the sun" from the perspective of those formerly deeply entrenched in its vices and now free and grateful to share a unique perspective on life.

Honey, Do You HAVE To Go To CR Tonight?

(A CR Wife's Perspective)

on how well he's feeling that night I can either foster his conviction or attempt to persuade him not to go.

Bottom line is that our husbands are not the only ones that reap the benefits of the CR ministry: our families do as well. Because of the power of the CR Ministry, my son can see firsthand what it means to be a real man and my daughter can recognize the qualities to look for in an awesome husband.



This is a question many of us wives, including myself, have asked our husbands on a Sunday night when they are halfway out the door. The more I ask, the more my kids start to question as well, and look to see my husbands response. Depending

Marriages are truly healed and strengthened because of CR. Families learn to speak the truth in love to one another as they do in CR, and learn that they will always find encouragement in the Word of God. CR doesn't just focus on drug addiction, it focuses on life and truth: things that really matter. It helps you how to think as you go through life facing everyday situations.

What our husbands learn in CR can help any family that is willing to embrace and listen to the lessons learned every CR night. Many wives have asked, "How can I help my husband?" Its simple. Be supportive. Let what matters to him most matter to you as well.

I know life gets busy and there is always something to do. Many times we can even feel like they are "neglecting" their responsibilities at home by going to CR meetings. I have news for you... if our husbands don't get the help and encouragement that they can only get from other men with similar pasts striving to do what's right then all other attempts to do _____ (fill in the blank) will fail.

Let's work hard on joyfully fulfilling the roles that God has so specially picked out for us and in this way help our husbands be the men that God has intended for them to be. So yes...to answer your question. He *does* have to go to CR tonight. Better yet, push him out the door and make sure he goes!

Recent Articles on the Web

Read these articles at chemicalrecovery.org

[Total Recovery - Total Commitment](#)
[The Prestige - Loving the Illusion](#)
[Empathy - How Much One Cares](#)
[I Pledge Allegiance](#)

Fall has arrived. It's time to get up from in front of the TV and go out and get some fresh air. Take a walk and stare in awe at the beauty that God has provided in His creation. Don't allow your life to become so busy or so stale that you lose sight of God and His Mighty power.



Keep in Touch

How are you doing with keeping in contact with folks around you? You know you can't do this on your own. You need God and you need good friends.

Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel. Proverbs 27:9

Good friends are those who will put their friendship on the line to speak the truth in love. Keep these friends around you and make sure that you are being the kind of friend they need in their lives as well.

Opinion

"He's been a plumber for twenty years, he must know what he's doing." "She's been a nurse for ten years, listen to her and she'll put you right." "They've lived in this town for forty years; they know everybody!"

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How many times have you heard comments along these lines? The understanding is that spending a sizable amount of time doing one thing now makes you the *expert*. You become the “go-to” guy or gal, the one who has been around the block and has the scars to prove it. There is a lot to be said for this. There are many careers or tasks, that if we put in enough time, it becomes as natural as breathing. Therefore, to someone just coming up through the ranks, you are the best and the one with all the answers.

However the same cannot be said about recovery. Recovery is not a skill, it is a journey. It can be filled with detours and unexpected turns. Add to this Total Recovery—reclaiming the life God intends for us to have, the one we threw away and this journey has even more challenges. It is important to keep in our sights that we are never further away from relapse

than one drink or one drug. Even if we have 20 years recovery under our belts, what does that really mean? Are we cured? Of course not! We are still just one ‘use’ away.

There are many folks around us both in the Kingdom and out who have put their trust in their ‘sober time’. This is not wise. What are you doing today to work on your recovery? Are you practicing Total Recovery, or are you just ‘not using’? Have you switched addictions and now instead of drinking, you are just overeating, overspending or flying into rages? Dealing with this is all a part of Total Recovery. Scripture tells us to be careful those of us who think we stand for fear we fall. Without us relying on Jesus and actively working on our recovery, it will not be a question of ‘if’ we will fall but ‘when’.

Question and Answer

Q Do people still graduate from CR?

A A good place to begin when discussing CR graduations is to look at the word graduate itself. Here are some definitions of the word graduate:

- 1: to be graduated from
- 2a: to mark with degrees of measurement
b: to divide into grades or intervals
- 3: to admit to a particular standing or grade.

The definition we typically used when talking about CR graduations in the past was definition 1: we graduated people from CR, they graduated out of it. The definition we use now when describing graduations is more in the spirit of definition 2. Graduations mark an accomplishment. They recognize an achieved understanding and maturation. Due to a new-found respect for CR as an Eternal Fellowship, we no longer encourage people to leave CR after graduation, but rather we encourage them to participate in CR as graduates from immaturity to maturity. In 1 Cor 3:1-2 Paul urges the church to leave baby milk teachings and move on to spiritual food fit for the more spiritually mature. In the same way graduations now are a sign and recognition that the graduate is now ready to move on to teachings and an approach to recovery less fit for the infant in recovery.

Consider how CR will look in the future as a result of a new emphasis on remaining a part of CR indefinitely. Consider the wisdom of such an emphasis. In the same way we are always sinners in need of a connection to the body of Christ (the church), as addicts we will always need to be connected to the CR fellowship which opened our eyes to the truth about our addiction and supported us through our journey into sobriety. For the addict our condition always needs the attention received in CR. The truth is not only that we need CR to retain what was recovered, but also that CR needs our experiences as graduated addicts, and the spirit within us, to help others in CR: newcomers and fellow graduates alike. The result of this new outlook will be a growth in CR, both spiritually and numerically, unlike one ever seen. Groups will grow and split in proportion to the number of grateful addicts who see the reality of their spiritual condition and need, and who want to keep their recovery by giving it away. The potential to realize the tradition of Outreach is limitless.

Graduations from CR are important, but they are not the end or the goal of our recovery. CR conducts open meetings. People are free to come and they are also free to go as they choose. Having said that I believe that today a person who truly embraced the recovery we advocate would not want to graduate, in the old sense, but would want to be connected to this fellowship and continue to grow in their recovery as much and for as long as possible.

