

## Willingness to Change – The Mindset

Why are you here today?

What is it you want to get out of the CR workshop?

Do you currently lead a CR group?

What is the purpose of CR?

Originally: to create a group where people with drug addictions who were suffering in the church or wanted to become disciples of Jesus and join the church could participate in an 8-12 week program to overcome their addiction. CR was vibrant up until the number of people attempting to join the church slowed down significantly revealing a major shortcoming in CR, namely that the group work for newcomers only with little to no attention paid to how to keep a person growing in their recovery long-term after graduation.

Who is CR for today?

Addicts in all stages of recovery who see their need for the help empathy, accountability, truthful speech, and fellowship of other addicts with similar insights, standards and philosophy.

### **Mark 2:16-18 (New International Version)**

*<sup>16</sup>When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"*

*<sup>17</sup>On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*

What is your name and drug of choice?

Why do we refer to the drug of choice in the present tense?

If you are a drug addict with a drug of choice are you in a recovery group *for yourself*?

When did you get cured of your addiction?

- We have to all be willing to change something ingrained in us: the idea that after a short time we can graduate from a recovery group and no longer need the help of other addicts from an addiction that took years to develop. If your message is that you never are cured of your addiction, then it follows that you should never stop taking your medicine.

(Clip one—Bill W Meets Dr Bob “I Came Here for Me”)

**Acts 18:**

<sup>24</sup>Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. <sup>25</sup>He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor<sup>[b]</sup> and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. <sup>26</sup>He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

<sup>27</sup>When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On arriving, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. <sup>28</sup>For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

- Time in CR means you know something about recovery but we must be willing to acknowledge our shortcomings and “inadequacies” in order to learn and grow in our understanding of CR. Your willingness to change is evident in how much you allow yourself to learn new things about subjects you know something about.

## **Luke 11:**

<sup>21</sup>“When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. <sup>22</sup>But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.

<sup>23</sup>“He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters.

<sup>24</sup>“When an evil<sup>[h]</sup> spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ <sup>25</sup>When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. <sup>26</sup>Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first.”

- Keeping your recovery takes vigilance. If God has rescued you from the spirits of drug addiction but in its stead demons of pride, overconfidence, and self righteousness come in, the final condition is worse.

(Clip 2—No One Recognizes Me)

## **2 Cor 12:**

<sup>7</sup>To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. <sup>8</sup>Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. <sup>9</sup>But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. <sup>10</sup>That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- Participation in CR is an acknowledgement that we are weak in our flesh and need help. If you are not in CR for yourself you are not qualified to teach others about recovery.
- Having a “special” position in CR is dangerous to self and others
- Your position in CR as a participant is your weakness and your strength