

# *Tried Stone Ministries*

*Isaiah 28:16*

*“Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.”*

*TriedStoneMinistries.org*

*Welcome to the Tried Stone Ministries  
Monthly Newsletter!*

*Tried Stone Ministries is intended to  
bring light to current events, expose  
darkness, and to encourage those  
journeying to follow in the footsteps of  
the Tried Stone - **Jesus** the Rock of our  
Salvation.*



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Julie L. Hall  
The Narcissist in Your Life

NARCISSISM

### 52 Ways to Identify a Covert Narcissist

Triangulating, flattering, and conducting smear campaigns.

Updated September 10, 2023 | Reviewed by Kaja Perina

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THE BASICS

What Is Narcissism?

Find a therapist who understands narcissism.

KEY POINTS

- The covert narcissist fails to develop empathy, self-awareness, or a stable sense of identity.
- Covert narcissists avoid the spotlight and prefer passive-aggressive means of controlling others.
- Tactics of a covert narcissist might include belittling, triangulation, and avoiding direct responsibility.

As we steadily march on to the climax of time, our society has become paralyzed by the claims of others laid upon unsuspecting persons who are forced to self-censor to appease the need for preferred pronouns, aversion of perceived racism, and the “eggshell-delicate-sensibilities” of others. Our freedom of expression is curtailed by those who see themselves as victims of a patriarchal colonialism, locked behind a flawed “religio-societal” façade, that seeks to crush out the needs/wants of self-validating subgroups. The very complaint of these various groups is that white protestant males are the bane of their existence due to the latter’s insatiable need of world dominance and control. Yet the misuse of pronouns, or any action no matter its innocence is painted as the highest of outrages and swiftly met with legal action sometimes for the sole purpose of driving the defendant into financial devastation. Who is the true aggressor? The perceived victim.

Instead of holding the bar of society high it has been continually lowered, and those for whom the lowering has taken place cry “lower, still lower”. The pillars of society are exposed and may soon crack under the weight of constant appeasement. Division is the result of one group being favored over another. This division simmers and can boil into violence.

What is the root of these supposed victim classes? Surely there are victims of circumstance, victims of abuse, victims of neglect, are these not valid? These are indeed valid, but being a victim and claiming victimization can be radically different things.

One of the darkest psychological cancers to appear on the American society is the Covert Narcissist. Hidden behind real or imagined victimization, Covert Narcissism seeks to downplay the needs or emotions of others in favor of the narcissist’s need of validation. The “victim” seeks only privilege, recognition, and validation. This narcissistic drive is a relentless manipulation of events and circumstances so that the “victim” remains a perpetual victim and therefore should receive (often to the detriment of others) special recognition, attention and enabling. Their needs are always paramount, and they can speedily throw off those who they have drained of emotional supply without thought or remorse.

What does the Bible say regarding, what we call today, Narcissism?

*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*  
*Jeremiah 17:9,10*

At the core of such pathology lies a sin-sick propensity for selfishness and evil. The deceit of the heart can cause one to think that they are perfectly justified in their actions, but God studies the motives. For pathology such as this there is only one cure:

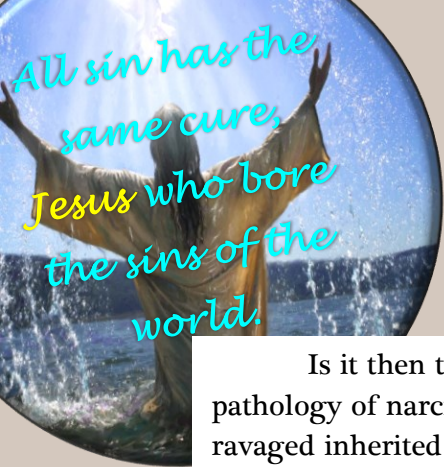
*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*  
*Psalms 51:10*

### Covert Narcissism Checklist

The more covert form of pathological narcissism and narcissistic personality disorder (NPD) is not expressed the same way in every individual, but there are typical patterns that are very common. If you see many or most of these attitudes and behaviors in a person you know, you’re probably dealing with someone who suffers—and makes others suffer—with covert narcissism.

1. Is passive-aggressive
2. Criticizes and judges from the sidelines
3. Is condescending and superior
4. Is threatened by honesty and directness
5. Swings between idealizing and devaluing him-/herself and others

Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him. As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.  
Isaiah 3:11,12



Is it then the responsibility of the Narcissist to change or is it even reasonable to ask? The pathology of narcissism comes from a fallen nature. Narcissism is simply one expression of a sin ravaged inherited condition handed down from degenerate generations previous. All sin has the same cure, Jesus who bore the sins of the world. Those sins are paid for, the individual is responsible for accepting and allowing Jesus to make the transformation. Pray without ceasing, intercessory prayer cannot be overstated!

*Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*  
*1 Thessalonians 5:14-18*

There are also ways to prevent against the expression of these tendencies. Mainly, how we raise our children.

*“Even after they are of age, children are required to respect their parents, and to look after their comfort. They should listen to the counsel of godly parents, and not feel that because a few more years are added to their life, they have grown out of their duty to them. There is a commandment with promise to those who honor their father and their mother. In these last days children are so noted for their disobedience and disrespect that God has especially noticed it, and it constitutes a sign that the end is near. It shows that Satan has almost complete control of the minds of the young.” 1T. 217.2 Ellen White*

Let’s further consider this counsel, its relevance now is more than when it was written. How different today the family structure is than that which Godly counsel affirms.

*“I have been shown that parents generally have not taken a proper course with their children. They have not restrained them as they should, but have left them to indulge in pride, and follow their own inclinations. Anciently, parental authority was regarded; children were then in subjection to their parents, and feared and revered them; but in these last days the order is reversed. Some parents are in subjection to their children. They fear to cross the will of their children, and therefore yield to them. But just as long as children are under the roof of the parents, dependent upon them, they should be subject to their control. Parents should move with decision, requiring that their views of right be followed out.” 1T. 216.2*

When I was young, I thought my mother was so strict. I felt that if I was an adult, I would be free from her unnecessary constraint. I think many in my generation felt the same, and now we see what results from overindulgence. Sister White goes on:

*“Eli might have restrained his wicked sons, but he feared their displeasure. He suffered them to go on in their rebellion, until they became a curse to Israel. Parents are required to restrain their children. The salvation of children depends very much upon the course pursued by the parents. In their mistaken love and fondness for their children, many parents indulge them to their hurt, nourish their pride, and put upon them trimmings and ornaments which make them vain, and lead them to think that dress makes the lady or gentleman. But a short acquaintance convinces those with whom they associate that an outside appearance is not sufficient to hide the deformity of a heart void of the Christian graces, but filled with self-love, haughtiness, and uncontrolled passions. Those who love meekness, humility, and virtue, should shun such society, even if it be Sabbathkeepers’ children. Their company is poisonous; their influence leads to death. Parents realize not the destructive influence of the seed which they are sowing. It will spring up and bear fruit which will make their children despise parental authority.” 1T 217.1*

The parental influence is decreed by God and is to be kept holy. The results surround us of the breaking of this law.

*Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*  
*Exodus 20:12*

God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, **disobedient to parents**, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:  
**Romans 1:28-31**

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, **disobedient to parents**, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.  
**2 Timothy 3:1-5**

6. Denies and dismisses others’ feelings
7. Cultivates a public image sharply different from his/her private behavior
8. Identifies as a victim
9. Is cynical and sarcastic
10. Makes unreasonable demands
11. Turns your problems into his/her dramas
12. Belittles and blames
13. Exploits and/or attacks others’ vulnerability
14. Is reactive to questioning or criticism
15. Plays on sympathies
16. Fakes or exaggerates illness/injury for attention
17. Withholds and stonewalls
18. Gaslights
19. Avoids introspection and lacks self-awareness
20. Uses platitudes in place of genuine insight
21. Denies own anger
22. Focuses on unfairness
23. Is envious and vengeful
24. Prefers to remain behind the scenes
25. Gossips
26. Triangulates
27. Holds a grudge
28. Needs reassurance
29. Is inattentive or annoyed when others talk
30. Has double standards
31. Hates to lose
32. Fixates on others’ problems and misfortunes
33. Flatters and fawns to win favor
34. Displays rage and contempt in private
35. Resists decision-making
36. Does not sincerely apologize
37. Avoids direct responsibility
38. Has an exaggerated sense of entitlement
39. Is impressed by the overt narcissist’s appearance of confidence
40. Lacks emotional empathy



Paul restates this commandment and adds emphasis:

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.  
Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)  
That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.  
And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath:  
but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.  
Ephesians 6:1-4*

Here Paul brings out that the raising of the children is equal to the devotion which the children should give to their parents. Inspired pen continues:

*“Again I was directed to the condition of the young in these last days. Children are not controlled. Parents, you should commence your first lesson of discipline when your children are babes in your arms. Teach them to yield their will to yours. This can be done by bearing an even hand, and manifesting firmness. Parents should have perfect control over their own spirits, and with mildness and yet firmness bend the will of the child until it shall expect nothing else but to yield to their wishes.” 1T 218.2*

The cornerstone of descent society is the family unit under the influence of the Holy Spirit. The unchecked selfishness that is in each of us is only needing an avenue of expression.

***“Even after children were married, they were under the most solemn obligation to their parents. Their judgment was not then considered sufficient without the counsel of the parents, and they were required to respect and obey their wishes unless these should conflict with the requirements of God.”  
1T 218.1***

*“Parents do not commence in season. The first manifestation of temper is not subdued, and the children grow stubborn, which increases with their growth and strengthens with their strength. Some children, as they grow older, think it a matter of course that they must have their own way, and that their parents must submit to their wishes. They expect their parents to wait upon them. They are impatient of restraint, and when old enough to be a help to their parents, they do not bear the burdens they should. They have been released from responsibilities and grow up worthless at home and worthless abroad. They have no power of endurance. The parents have borne the burden, and have suffered them to grow up in idleness, without habits of order, industry, or economy. They have not been taught habits of self-denial, but have been petted and indulged, their appetites gratified, and they come up with enfeebled health. Their manners and deportment are not agreeable. They are unhappy themselves and make those around them unhappy. And while the children are but children still, while they need to be disciplined, they are allowed to go out in company and mingle with the society of the young, and one has a corrupting influence over another.” 1T 218.3*

God uses the necessity of everyday life to bring about a sense of responsibility and care for the individuals of the home. If we do not learn these lessons in childhood, then when do we learn? Neglect of Godly responsibility by the parents brings a burden to society and to themselves.

*“The curse of God will surely rest upon unfaithful parents. Not only are they planting thorns which will wound them here, but they must meet their own unfaithfulness when the judgment shall sit. Many children will rise up in judgment and condemn their parents for not restraining them, and charge upon them their destruction. The false sympathy and blind love of parents causes them to excuse the faults of their children and pass them by without correction, and their children are lost in consequence, and the blood of their souls will rest upon the unfaithful parents.” 1T 219.1*

With the accompanying [Narcissist checklist](#) we can compare and see some of the same traits listed by Inspired pen of those who have had neglectful parenting. Is there a correlation?

*“Children who are thus brought up undisciplined, have everything to learn when they profess to be Christ's followers. Their whole religious experience is affected by their bringing up in childhood. The same self-will often appears; there is the same lack of self-denial, the same impatience under reproof, the same love of self and unwillingness to seek counsel of others, or to be influenced by others' judgment, the same indolence, shunning of burdens, lack of bearing responsibilities. All this is seen in their relation to the church. It is possible for such to overcome; but how hard the battle! how severe the conflict! How hard to pass through the course of thorough discipline which is necessary for them to reach the elevation of Christian character! Yet if they overcome at last, they will be permitted to see, before they are translated, how near the precipice of eternal destruction they came, because of the lack of right training in youth, the failure to learn submission in childhood.” 1T 219.2*

We have witnessed a steady decline of public decency and a marked increase in selfish indulgence, both within and without the church. Our society reflects the innate fallen nature of a sin-sick soul. From one generation to the next there seems to be a disregard for the Divinely inspired method of child rearing. The repercussion of indulgence and disregard of responsibility leaves a shell of what God intended the individual to be; the likeness of a selfless, righteous, loving Creator. Jesus seeks to save, and all who call on Him will be taught the peace of a gentle, self-denying character. ■

41. Focuses on appearance over substance
42. Rushes to (false) intimacy
43. Is anxious and hypervigilant
44. Displays false humility and humblebrags
45. Is prone to paranoia and conspiracy theories
46. Crosses normative boundaries and codes of conduct
47. Pokes, prods, and pries
48. Feels special through association
49. Feels above the rules
50. Uses guilt and shame to control and punish
51. Expects caretaking
52. Conducts smear campaigns

## Proverbs 22:6

**“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”**



# A Message from the Editor

Hello Friends!

Welcome to 2024! I pray this newsletter finds you well as we start out on this new year! Many irons are already in the fire.

There are several improvements to the website:

[TriedStoneMinistries.org](https://TriedStoneMinistries.org)

We have added an amended version of the 28 Fundamental Beliefs on the Principles of Faith page, including the Bible verses! You can download Parts 1 and 2 to share with others! We have also added a Links page that you can click and take you directly to some of our favorite ministries, speakers, and video series! We have also added a Christian Commitment page which has an abridged version of the baptismal vows, used to represent our core beliefs. We also made it easier for people to sign up to receive the monthly newsletter and more! Please take a moment to check it out!

[Click Here for  
TriedStoneMinistries.org](https://TriedStoneMinistries.org)

Jesus' return is imminent, even at the doors! Do we reflect the lovely character of Jesus as we should? Get ready, get ready, get ready! If something is causing us to neglect prayer and Bible study, maybe we should reevaluate our priorities. Nothing leaves earth unless it is without a spot or wrinkle! We must be clothed in Christ's Righteousness!

God bless you and thank you for your prayerful support!

Your brother in Christ!

-Brian Nichols

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[Highly  
Recommended  
reading!  
Click Here](#)

CHRIST OUR  
RIGHTEOUSNESS

Arthur G. Daniells



*These things I have spoken unto you, that  
in me ye might have peace. In the world  
ye shall have tribulation: but be of good  
cheer; I have overcome the world.*

*John 16:33*

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