

Small Group Guidelines

1. Keep your sharing focused on your own thoughts, feelings, and actions. Please limit your sharing to three to five minutes.
2. There is NO cross-talk please. Cross-talk is when two people engage in a dialogue during the meeting. Each person sharing is free to express feelings without interruptions.
3. We are here to support one another. We will not attempt to “fix” one another.
4. Anonymity and confidentiality are basic requirements. What is shared in the group stays in the group. The only exception is when someone threatens to injure themselves or others.
5. Offensive language has no place in a Christ-centered recovery group.



Riverview Church
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Bonsall, CA 92003
(760) 941-1430

12 Step Meetings: Monday and Friday at 7
Foundations: Wednesday at 7
Parents of Addicted Loved Ones: Thursday at 7

Accountability Team Phone Numbers

Sponsor _____

Accountability Partners

CO-DEPENDENT WOMEN IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH A SEXUALLY ADDICTED MAN

Issue Pamphlet



12 Steps



Exploring the Issue of Being a Co-Dependent Woman in a Relationship with a Sexually Addicted Man

Many of us blame ourselves for the addict's behavior: We tell ourselves, "If only I were more attractive, thinner, taller, shorter, etc.—if only I were more sexual."

We give in to others' behaviors, only to lose ourselves in the process. Sometimes, we have even participated in his sexual fantasies, or joined in by using pornography with him, leaving us feeling used and abused. Some of us ignored or did not recognize the signs that the addict was living a secret life.

Many of us blame the addict and their behavior for every problem in our relationship. We believe that if he would only change then everything would be fine. In essence, co-dependents are addicted to their spouse's behaviors. They either give in to the addict, try to control him, or make him stop.

We have sometimes pretended to family, friends, and co-workers that everything is "wonderful." We have been unforgiving and sometimes punishing toward the addict.

Characteristics of a Co-Dependent Woman in a Relationship with a Sexually Addicted Man may include but are not limited to:

- Having a spouse who continually escapes to pornography.
- Having a spouse who is currently having or has had an affair.
- You, yourself, are having an affair.
- Issues dealing with molestation and abuse from a spouse.
- Her spouse engages with sex workers.

Sobriety for Co-Dependency in a Relationship with a Sexually Addicted Man

- A state of confidence resulting from a reliance and trust in God
- Focusing on God and relying on Him to meet my needs
- Letting go of control and trusting God for the outcome
- Not taking responsibility for the addict's behavior or recovery
- Allowing the sex addict to be responsible for his own actions and recovery — no rescuing
- Being honest with myself about my need to be in recovery
- Minding my own business; no checking up on or spying on the addict, trusting that God will reveal any necessary information

- A commitment to growth through prayer, educational reading, and accountability

How We Find Recovery

Through a relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Higher Power, and by working through the Christ-centered 12 steps, we can find freedom from our co-dependent thoughts and behaviors.

Characteristics of someone in recovery for being a co-dependent woman in a relationship with a sexually addicted man may include, but are not limited to:

- Accept Jesus Christ as Higher Power.
- Working the 12 step recovery process diligently and consistently.
- Recognize the struggles of other co-dependents.
- Learn healthy, Christian values for family roles and rules.
- Gain information about healthy sexuality and relationships.
- Break through denial and other unhealthy family patterns.
- Encouragement from the group to find peace, strength, and grace through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Build healthy relationships by finding love and acceptance in a "safe" place to share.
- Realize that we could not control the addict or their behavior.
- Understand that our problems are emotional and spiritual.
- Face our denial & accept the truth about our lives, and past issues.
- Realize that blaming ourselves, trying to control the addict and/or ignoring his behavior, refusing to set and uphold our own personal boundaries, are all signs of co-addiction.
- Accept responsibility for our own actions and make Jesus the Lord of our lives.
- Become dedicated to learning about sexual addiction and co-addiction and becoming partners with our spouse in recovery.
- Realize we are not responsible for his addiction or recovery. It is not our job to "fix" him.
- Find healthy ways to release our fears and anger and refuse to use anger inappropriately toward the addict.
- Take the focus off of the addict and focus on God and our own thoughts and feelings.