

# Narcissistic Gospel... It's all about me!

## True gospel...it's all about HIM!

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- Narcissist – self centered, self focused, self serving
  - American Gospel – Christ Alone on Netflix
1. **The Bible story has:**
    - a. **Antagonist** – a person who actively opposes or is hostile to someone or something; an adversary (villain)
    - b. **Protagonist** – the leading character or one of the major characters in a drama, movie, novel, or story
    - c. **Hero** – one who is admired for courage to confront the antagonist and who saves the day because of special abilities
  2. We think the Bible is about how **WE get** salvation, not about how **GOD** gives it.
  3. Preoccupied about how **WE get** benefits of salvation:
    - a. **Healing (physically, mentally, emotionally)**
    - b. **Renewed mind (doctrine, beliefs)**
    - c. **Blessings and provisions (wealth, family, social status)**
  4. The only **TRUE** response to the Gospel is **how and when** we **GIVE** our lives away.

When we see ourselves as disciples of Jesus advancing the dominance of God's Kingdom, we will see as a result that we are not just beneficiaries, but *agents* of the gospel

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## **Signs of a spiritual narcissist:**

**1. They Constantly Reference their own Achievements**

**2. They Invade Conversations**

**3. They Twist Scripture**

**4. They Profess Love, but Never Show It**

**5. They Talk, but They Don't Listen**

**6. They Live in Echo Chambers**

In [1 Kings 22](#), Jehoshaphat king of Judah and Ahab king of Israel join forces to wage war against a neighboring adversary. However, before they depart Jehoshaphat decides to inquire upon the Lord for guidance. Four hundred prophets parade in front of the kings proclaiming victory is at hand, but Jehoshaphat isn't convinced. When asked whether there is still a disciple of the Lord they can speak with, Ahab reluctantly admits,

*“There is still one prophet through whom we can inquire of the LORD, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad. He is Micaiah son of Imlah.”*

Like Ahab, the Spiritual Narcissist lives in their own personal echo chamber. They surround themselves with individuals who will always affirm their existing preconceptions or opinions. Don't make the same mistake. A wise Christian knows the right answer isn't always the popular one.

**7. They Refuse to Acknowledge Their Mistakes**

**8. They Tear Others Down**

**9. They Lead by Force, Not Example**

**10. They Ultimately Put God Second**

An expert in the law once asked Jesus what the greatest commandment was. His reply,

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: [‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’](#) All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”* – [Matthew 22:37-40](#)

Many Christians know this verse by heart, but the meaning behind Christ's words goes much farther than we realize. Not only is Jesus calling believers to love God with all their heart, he's telling them our faithfulness is affirmed by our love for our neighbors. To put it simply: *we can*

*only love God if we're unselfish.* A Spiritual Narcissist will always put God second. Whether it's by neglecting Christ's commands, or how they treat their neighbors, pride will always make a person spiritually toxic. Don't let yourself miss out on God's amazing plan by being a Spiritual Narcissist.

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## **Narcissistic churches:**

*"Just as we're often blind to our own selfish tendencies, we often fail to notice when narcissism is present in our churches."*

Few, if any, of us would self-identify as a narcissist: self-centered and egotistical with a grandiose view of one's own talents. Narcissists aren't aware of their narcissism; they usually think everyone else has the ego problem. They'll say, "If others were sensible, they would agree with me."

Just as we tend to be blind to our own narcissistic tendencies, we often fail to notice when narcissism is present in our churches. Therefore, let's look at 10 characteristics of a narcissistic church.

### **1. A narcissistic church is led by a narcissistic pastor who is consumed with insecurity.**

"They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi'" (Matthew 23:6-7).

### **2. When a narcissistic church's members talk about their faith, their focus is on "what the church has done for me."**

They forget that, "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 just persons who need no repentance..." (Luke 15:1-7).

### **3. Everyone sits in the same place every weekend as if they own their seats, and look suspiciously at anyone unfamiliar who tries to sit there.**

"If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, 'Here's a good seat for you,' but say to the poor man, 'You stand there' or 'Sit on the floor by my feet,' have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?" (James 2:3-4).

### **4. Positions and ministry responsibilities are owned by a select few, rather than shared with the congregation.**

The same people do the same things over and over. “For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body” (1 Corinthians 12:14-15).

## **5. The members of the congregation love one another—and only one another.**

“If you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same?” (Matthew 5:46).

## **6. The pastors, elders, deacons and staff demand special privileges, such as reserved parking spots.**

They forget, “Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...” (Matthew 20:26-28).

## **7. When members and staff discuss other churches, it is seldom, if ever, in a positive light.**

“Who are you to judge another’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls...” (Romans 14:4).

## **8. There are narrow doctrinal stresses.**

Leaders say, “Do these few things, and you’re all right with God.” “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,’ which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility...” (Colossians 2:21-23).

## **9. There is an emphasis on works over faith.**

Yet, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

## **10. There is a strong emphasis on appearance and obsession with how the church is being perceived by other Christians.**

“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves ... having a form of godliness but denying its power” (2 Timothy 3:1-5).