



Compassionate Recovery **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Created by Jack Dutton
Founder of Compassionate Recovery

1. **C**ONSTRUCT a biblically based perspective both of mankind in created perfection and the extensive damage from the Fall common to us all as evidenced in broken relationships with God, self and others.
2. **O**PEN ourselves up to admitting the truth that many of our past ways of dealing with life's pain and loss have been ineffective and if we keep dealing with life in these ways, the past will simply define our future.
3. **M**AKE a commitment of faith to seek God to lead us into the hope of Biblical transformation, embracing on our journey the essential need for the Holy Spirit's help and the support of godly brothers and sisters.
4. **P**URSUE truth about our relationships with God, self, and others by taking honest, comprehensive assessments of our lives for the purpose of identifying steps that move us from where we are closer to what God designed us to be.
5. **A**CKNOWLEDGE the value of making amends with those we have harmed and identify specific people that with God's help and with the support of someone we trust we will work towards making amends for the hurt we have caused, ***except if to do so would cause someone else or ourselves harm.***
6. **S**EARCH out the true meaning of biblical forgiveness and identify specific people that have harmed us in order that with God's help and the help of someone we trust to work towards forgiving them God's way, ***learning the distinction between forgiveness and reconciliation and being careful not to blame ourselves for what someone else did.***
7. **S**TAND firmly on God's word to identify other areas from our assessments that we recognize need to change and that with God's help and the help of someone we trust prioritize these areas and work on establishing and implementing a systematic plan to begin to work on them.
8. **I**NSTITUTE the discipline of "forward living", accepting that what we have learned are lifelong principles ***not simply present fixes*** that when consistently practiced assure us of continued growth.
9. **O**BEY God by practicing a consistent time with Him through personal Bible study and prayer and in consistently meeting with others who will encourage us to walk in faith with complimentary action:
 - A. To better know God and His will for us.
 - B. To seek His power to consistently live out His will for us.
 - C. To be accountable and strengthened to stay faithful to God's truth and ways
 - D. To protect ourselves from sliding back into old patterns and to continue our growth into freedom.
10. **N**ETWORK with others for a life of "outward living", yielding ourselves to God to use us both through our words and through our consistent example of practicing what He has and is teaching us, in order to help move others from where they are closer to where God would have them to be.