

"The Wrap Group" Sample Pages #2
Written by Frederick Passmore

Larry: (*Speaking up to nip the direction of discussion.*) No, nothing like that. What I mean is, as a believer in Jesus Christ. Addictions to sin are something that bind us and prevent us from having an active relationship with the Father.

Leanne: (*Shaking her head and holding up a hand.*) I'm sorry, Larry, but we can't bring religion into this. It has no place here.

Larry: Huh? Why would you say that?

Leanne: This isn't a religious support group. We're not sponsored by any religious group, and we get a large part of our financial aid from a government grant. If we started allowing religious discussion, we would lose our funding.

Larry: Than what hope can you offer people trapped in an addiction to sin?

Leanne: We don't call it sin, but a sickness. The term "sin" implies responsibility to some God, which we have no knowledge of. But the term "sickness" implies a physical or mental cause which can be treated with proven theories and positive results.

Larry: (*Looking around.*) I hate to "burst your bubble," Leanne....

(*The group all goes "ooooooooooooo!" as if he has just dissed her in an extreme way.*)

Larry: (*Continuing.*) ...but I don't see too many positive results being reported here.

Leanne: (*Sharply.*) That is a negative statement, and we discourage negative statements. We must be positive to see results.

Larry: Okay... I'm *positive* nobody here is getting helped when you leave God out of the picture. Doesn't faith play a vital part in recovery from addictions?

Leanne: Yes, it does. We teach one to have faith in themselves. Remember our Statement? "I am in control!"

(*The group all repeats in unison, "I am in control!"*)

Larry: Well, everyone is invited to share their victory testimony, so here's mine... I am able to overcome through the help of the Lord Jesus Christ, who says "without Me, ye can do nothing." Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ Jesus, who strengthens me."

(*As he began his statement, Leanne has stood up and went to the phone, picking it up and speaking into it, while looking back at Larry. She is covering the side of her mouth as she speaks into the phone to keep from being heard by the others.*)

Larry: (*Continuing.*) Truthfulness is an important part of dealing with an addiction. Truthfulness **with** yourself, and knowing the truth **about** yourself. Jesus said, "I am the Truth." If you know Him, he not only shows you the truth about Himself, but about your own self. And then you can begin to deal with the problem areas. Accountability to other believers who can help and pray for you is invaluable, also.

(*Larry sits to the murmured approval of the group.*)

Neal: You know, people, I think Larry's got something there. I've tried and tried by myself, and I stop for while, then fall right back into the same self-destructive pattern. I need something ..or someone... to help me from within. (*He looks around at his fellow group members.*) I think we should hear Larry out, maybe he can help us.

Group: *(Simultaneously, each one saying something a little different)* Yeah! Let's hear more, Larry! This is new to us! Preach it, brother!

(Leanne has walked back to her chair and has sat down by this time. Larry is about to speak again, but is stopped by her as she speaks up.)

Leanne: *(Firmly.)* As the leader of this support group, I'm afraid I need to get this discussion back on track. Our new visitor seems to be causing some trouble with his unrecognized treatment suggestions, and it has become counter-productive. *(She gives Larry a hard look.)* I'm afraid I must ask you to leave, Larry.

(The group buzzes with whispered reactions to her statement. Right then a big fellow enters the room, acting as a security guard. At Leanne's head nod, he moves toward Larry and stands with his arms crossed as he looks down at him.)

Larry: *(Looking up at him.)* You've **got** to be kidding me.

Leanne: I'm sorry, but the Center's guidebook clearly prohibits anyone using this group to proselytize or influence any toward a specific religious affiliation. I can't risk being reported and having our funding withdrawn. Plus, we could be sued. So, please leave.

(The guard takes his arm and prompts him to rise and go with him.)

Neal: *(Also standing.)* Now, wait just a minute! I invited him here tonight, and I don't think you have the right to censor his views, religious-based or otherwise!

Leanne: I assure you I do. I'll have to ask you to leave also if you continue to cause trouble.

Neal: *(Incredulous.)* You don't **have** to ask me... I'm leaving with him. I, for one, want to hear more about this help that he's found. *(He looks around.)* Anyone else coming?

(They all sheepishly look down or around to avoid his gaze, and Leanne's threatening glare.)

Neal: Fine. Keep on the endless cycle of popping. I'm not coming back... *(Walking over to stand beside Larry as he is escorted out)* ...and I don't think I'll need to, anyway.

(Larry and Neal leave together, the guard behind them making sure they leave the building.)

George: *(Waving earnestly.)* Bye, fellows... and good luck! Stay in touch!

(Leanne shoots him a sharp look and he drops his hand sheepishly.)

Leanne: I apologize for that unpleasantness. Now, getting back to the regular order of the meeting. Any more confessions or victory testimonies?

Anna: Well... Larr... *(catching herself)* ...uh, **somebody** brought up truthfulness... and I haven't been exactly truthful about everything. I have something else I feel I need to confess...

Leanne: Confession is an important step in overcoming problems such as this. Please, go ahead.

Anna: *(Taking out a small piece of bubble-wrap from her pocket.)* I... I brought some with me.... in case I couldn't help myself and needed a bubble break.

(The room breaks out in noise as all the group members react, talking to each other, straining to see the bubble-wrap, fidgeting and excited, as if a cat had been spotted at a dog show.)

Leanne: *(Loudly, as she stands.)* Please! Please, let's have order! Quiet, please! *(The room quiets down.)* Thank you. *(She holds out her hand to Anna.)* Anna, thank you for coming clean. Please, hand it over, for your own good.

(Continued...)