



THE ADDICTION CONNECTION

11. Facing the Fight

- Overview manifestations of “Addiction”

James 1:12-15: **Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.**

I. “Addictions” and Worship

- A. When Christians sin, they don’t cease worshipping. Rather, worship is directed away from the Creator to created things – **James 1:12-15**.
- B. God never causes sin – **James 1:13, Jeremiah 17:9**. God is not tempted with evil, and does not tempt any man.
 1. Change doesn’t begin within us. It begins with God revealing His glory and restoring His reign over every nook and cranny of the “addict’s” life.
 2. Temptation is a manifestation of the heart – **James 1:14**. The heart presents a trap/lure. John Calvin has said, “The human heart is an idol factory.”
- A. When desires are not intercepted by God’s Word, sin is inevitable – **James 1:15**.

II. When an individual is in bondage to “addiction”

- A. Teach them to recognize the need for godly sorrow/grief – **2 Corinthians 7:10, Ephesians 4:22**.
 1. They will only love God as much as they hate their sin. Radical amputation is required – **Matthew 5:29-30, 18:8-9, Hebrews 12:1**.
 2. Teach the “addict” not to fall to the lie that they cannot have victory over this or any other sin.
 - a. Sinful habits can become the “norm,” but God gives a way out – **1 Corinthians 10:13**.
 - b. Victory begins with confession. Agree with God, name the sin specifically, confess to the appropriate people, and receive the forgiveness God promises the broken/contrite – **Jeremiah 31:34, Colossians 1:21-23, Psalm 103:12, Psalm 65:3, Psalm 51:2, Romans 5:20, 2 Corinthians 2:6-8**.
 - c. Take hope from God’s promise of mercy, forgiveness, and a cleansed heart – **1 John 1:9, Proverbs 28:13**.

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- d. Confession is a state of brokenness that hates the sin, not a one-time event – **1 Thessalonians 1:4-10, 1 Peter 3:10-11**. The “addict” must recognize that it is a heart issue – they can’t blame society, innate desires, or physical ramifications – **Jeremiah 17:9**.

B. Help the “addict” recognize the digression of sin.

1. They start to become comfortable in the sin and seek to indulge it more – **Ephesians 4:19**.
2. The cycle continues with increased intensity since the sin is not being dealt with as sin – **Proverbs 27:20**.
3. The Holy Spirit is quenched by ignored sin – **1 Thessalonians 5:19-22**.

C. Help the “addict” see that the battle is necessary – **Romans 7:18-25a**.

D. Teach the “addict” the biblical process of change.

1. Renew the mind – **Ephesians 4:23**.
2. Confession produces repentance, which leads to deliverance from the sin – **2 Corinthians 10:4-6, Romans 12:1-2**.
3. Replace old habits – **Ephesians 4:24**.

III. Teach the “addict” to seek out accountability

A. Accountability: A relationship in which a Christian gives permission to another believer (same sex) to look into their life for purposes of questioning, challenging, admonishing, advising, encouraging, and otherwise providing input in a way that will help the individual live according to the Christian principles that both hold.

B. Establish an accountability relationship – **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, Proverbs 27:17, Hebrews 3:12-13, 1 Thessalonians 5:11**.

C. Teach the “addict” to study Scripture to learn God’s wisdom in his/her battlefields.

1. Goal of life – **2 Corinthians 5:9, Galatians 1:10, 1 Corinthians 10:31**.
2. Self-control – **1 Thessalonians 4:4-5, 1 Timothy 4:7-8, Romans 6:12**.
3. Interpersonal relationships – **1 Thessalonians 4:6-7, Romans 16:17, Philippians 2:3-4**.
4. Thought life – **Proverbs 4:23, 23:7, Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 4:8**.
5. Eye control – **Job 31:1, Psalm 101:3, Proverbs 4:23-25, Matthew 6:22-23**.
6. Influence of friends – **Proverbs 13:20-21, 22:24-25, 27:17, 5:9-11, 1 Corinthians 15:33**.