

ADDICTIONS (Part #1)

1. There can be abuse of a substance or experience w/out addiction.
2. Addiction: Habitual psychological and/or physiological dependence on a substance or practice beyond one's voluntary control (Am Hertge Dict 2000)
3. The Addicted are those whose volition has been overcome resulting in a loss of normal control of faculties – enslaved to substance or experience
4. The addicted normally cannot stop w/out outside help.

1. Man's is created with an empty place in his soul

Jn 7:37-39 – *koilia* – stomach; womb – *koilos* – hollow

- Belly, middle, womb, desires, appetites, cravings
- This emptiness is the source of man's innermost desires – thirst

Rom 16:18 – not serve the Lord but their own desires – appetites, cravings

Phil 3:19 – whose God is their appetites – serve their own desires

- If man does not fill his emptiness with God's love, he will find other things
- Serve your own desires indicates choosing other objects/experiences to meet needs

Jn 7:39 – God's answer to man's need – Indwelling of GHS

- The solution to man's thirst is a relationship with God
- God designed us to need Him to meet our needs.
- Only God is able to provide that which man desperately needs
- God desires to meet our needs – waiting on us to attach to Him for our needs

2. The fall has caused man to be born spiritually dead – separated from God.

Rom 5:12 – Adam's sin and death has passed to all mankind

Eph 2:1-3 – Spiritually dead and dominated by the devil, the world and the flesh

- Spiritual death & -R has caused all mankind to be condemned by God
- God is unable to give us His love and we are unable to receive it.
- Dilemma – Man needs God but is cut off from God

3. Separation from God causes mankind's inner needs to go unmet.

§ Spiritual needs are not able to be met until salvation – reconciled to God

§ Parents are God's provision to prepare their children for reconciliation

Eph 6:4 – bring up children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord

§ Godly parenting provides an image of what is possible with God

§ Godly parenting provides a consistency of love – produces healthy children

§ Ungodly parenting leaves children empty, abused & confused

§ Abusive parenting leaves children fixated

4. In the absence of UL (God/parents) children replace love with pleasure.

Eph 5:22 – Old man is corrupted by deceitful desires

2Pt 1:4 – world is corrupted by lust

§ The absence of consistent parental love leaves children feeling isolated

§ Divine provision for children (parents) does not provide for them

§ The desire/need for love is corrupted into a pursuit of pleasure – confused

§ Pleasure of sin becomes confused with love

§ Pleasure is used as a substitute for love – relationship with substance/experience

§ Sinful pleasure becomes connected to all legitimate things in life

5. Children who become addicts have confused belief systems.

- Belief syst: sum of the conclusions, judgments and assumptions on holds to be true
- Growing up w/out love produces isolation and a sense of worthlessness
- Children who are not loved believe that love is only for others

Patrick Carnes Phd – Out of the Shadows, Understanding Sexual Addiction, p 135

- I am basically a bad and unworthy person
- No one will love me as I am – unloveable
- My needs will never be met if I have to depend on others – never have been
- My addiction is my most important need and relationship – replaces love
- Without self worth, man is unable to receive love and relationship

6. Pursuing pleasure + belief in pleasure = enslavement to pleasure.

Rom 6 – surrender to sin → enslaved to sin - addiction

- Pleasure as a way of filling emptiness increases emptiness
- Frantic search for happiness through pleasure

7. Enslavement to pleasure produces guilt and shame.

Rom 5:5; 2Thes 3:14; 2Tim 2:15; 1Jn 2:28

- Addicted person is ashamed of their weakness and behavior
- Guilt and shame cause the addict to hide their behavior – secret life
- The guilt & shame causes an intensification of the desire for pleasure – kill pain
- The deeper the addictions → more shame → greater need to intensify pleasure.

8. The true addict is caught in a cycle of filling emptiness with pleasure and being driven deeper into the cycle by guilt and shame.

- Creates a loop – self perpetuating cycle.
- Sex addict – emptiness → sexual pleasure → guilt/shame → greater emptiness → despair and shame and then more driven to be sexual.

Patrick Carnes Phd – Out of the Shadows, Understanding Sexual Addiction, p 9

- Preoccupation – trance or mood where addict is focused on substance/experience
- Rituals – each addict has his/her own routines that lead to the act
- Compulsion – the act of using or experiencing the addiction: sex, substance
- Despair – feeling of utter shame and hopelessness about breaking the addiction

9. Restoration - Gal 6:1-2

If a man is exposed – the sin comes to light and known by another

- **Confession** – to God; to another – the secret must be exposed
- **Abandon the Behavior** – must break the cycle

You who are spiritual – spiritual person / people

- **Turn back to God** – seek God through prayer and spiritual people; allow spiritual gifts to support you & bear your burdens; speaking truth with love

Restore – *katartizo* – to mend, heal, and put in order – spiritual growth

- **Transformation** – repent of and renew your belief system;
 - Unworthy in self – worthy in Christ – 2Cor 5:21
 - Unlovable – fully loved in Christ – Rom 5:5
 - Needs not met – needs met in Christ – Phil 4:19
 - Addiction – refocused on Christ – 2Cor 10:5