**ad·dic·tion** *noun:* the fact or condition of being addicted to a particular substance, thing, or activity.

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|  | **devotion to, dedication to, obsession with, infatuation with, passion for, love of, mania for, enslavement to** |

Addiction is a medical condition that is characterized by compulsive engagement in rewarding stimuli, despite adverse consequences. It can be thought of as a disease or biological process leading to such behaviors.

**ad·dict:** one who is addicted to a particular substance, typically an illegal drug.

1. **addiction** is: the person's choice, a result of choices from a flawed character, **addiction** seen as 'sinful' and spiritual interventions needed, **addiction** is sign of 'bankrupt' spiritual life and drug is a search for a higher power; UNDERPINNING OF OUR LEGAL SYSTEM-**people** pay for poor choices

.**10 most common addictions**  Among them, gambling, eating and internet use are problematic for many. The **10** most **common** **addictions** are alcohol, tobacco, drugs, gambling, shopping, sex, food, video games, the internet and the **addiction** to work. This legal intoxicant is incredibly destructive for both the individual and society at large.

**WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT ADDICTION:** Any addiction, whether to alcohol, drugs, prescription medicines, pornography, gambling, cigarettes, or even food, is a form of idolatry. The first commandment is, “You shall not have any other gods before Me.” The second commandment is, “You shall not bow down to them or serve them” (see Exodus 20). When a person is addicted, they are really bowing down and serving that addiction as their god. It is the sin of idolatry. They become a slave to it and they are held in bondage. Jesus said, “Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin” (John 8:34).

**BIBLICAL EXAMPLES** 2 Corinthians 7:1 1 Peter 4:1-3 Proverbs 23:29-35

**ALCOHOL** Drinking alcohol has been debated within the church for years. There are many Christians who feel at liberty to drink wine, and to be frank, I cannot make an airtight scriptural case against it. However, Paul said, “All things are lawful for me,” but he declared, “I will not be brought under the power of any” (1 Corinthians 6:12). I personally feel that it is unwise to take anything into your system that can bring you under its power, or "under the influence." It alters a person’s thinking, and thus their judgment. In addition, alcohol has been proven to damage a person both physically and mentally.

**For those who serve in Ministry:** GOD’S PERSPECTIVE MAKE A CHANGE 1 Timothy 3:8-9 2 Timothy 2:4 Titus 1:7-9

**ANGER**  Are you quick-tempered or quick to “fly off the handle” when something doesn’t go right? The only thing some people are ever going to know about Jesus Christ is what they see in you. How do you represent Jesus? Do you represent Him as being upset, mad or angry over small annoyances? **BIBLICAL EXAMPLE**: Revelation 9:20-21

**DEPRESSION:** Depression doesn't just hurt you; it also hurts everyone around you. There is nothing more depressing than talking to a person who is depressed, sometimes lasting weeks, months, and even years. Everything you suggest that might help, they return with a negative statement and attitude. You do your best to lift them up out of it but it seems they have brought you down instead. But there is a cure. **BIBLICAL EXAMPLES:** Job 1:20-22-Job 2:6-10-2 Corinthians 12:9-10

**DRUGS:** The word “sorcery” stems from the root word pharmakeia, which is also translated as witchcraft. When we find sorcery or witchcraft in the Bible, it refers to the use of drugs for hallucinogenic or mind-altering purposes, like narcotics. God’s law strictly prohibits drug abuse because when you allow the abuse of narcotics to reside in your life, it will ultimately destroy you. Narcotics are very insidious. The very first thing a narcotic will do is attack a person’s

willpower to resist. People can become hooked so quickly. Narcotic abuse then destroys good judgment and sensitivity to right and wrong, and people soon find themselves doing things they would have been appalled and shocked at before. **BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:** Revelation 9:20-21

**FOOD:**  Jesus warns us concerning the last days before His return, that we should be careful not to be caught unaware or by surprise as the result of surfeiting, which is eating and drinking too much (Luke 12:45-46). Eating and drinking too much can cloud our judgment. Solomon warned, “It’ll bring you to poverty, son.” **BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:** Daniel 1:8-14

**FORNICATION:** Fornication is having sexual relations outside of marriage. The world terms it “making love.” However, it’s not an act of love at all; it’s an act of lust. A person who entices someone else into the act of fornication is selfish since they are not considering the other person, but only thinking about satisfying their own desire. Fornication is a very unloving act and it is only by Satan’s deception that a person would think of it as an act of love.

**BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:** Revelation 2:14

**GAMBLING:** Gambling has an addictive capacity. A man can find himself under the dominion of this addiction and under its power so quickly. You see, a person who is involved in sinful iniquitous practices, such as gambling, is actually yielding himself as a servant unto sin.

**GOD’S PERSPECTIVE:** Exodus 20:17, Proverbs 23:4-5, Proverbs 28:22, Ecclesiastes 5:10, Ezekiel 33:31, Matthew 6:24, 1 Corinthians 6:12, 1 Timothy 6:6-10

**HOMOSEXUALITY** The prophet Ezekiel tells us the sin of Sodom started with pride, abundance, idleness, and they neglected the poor and needy. (Ezekiel 16:49-50). The term “sodomy,” is the obvious sin of Sodom. But as God looked into these men’s hearts and analyzed Sodom’s sin, He saw its more subtle form, the roots before it bore fruit. **BIBLICAL EXAMPLE**: Genesis 19:4-5; 24-25

**LOVE OF MONEY:** There’s nothing wrong with money. It’s a means by which we exchange commodities and goods with one another. The Bible doesn’t say that money is evil––it says “the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Timothy 6:10). If getting rich is the most important thing to you, and you are obsessed with wanting to get more and more money or possessions—that’s when it becomes evil. When your love for money exceeds your love for the true and the living God, you are actually worshiping the god mammon, and you will then find yourself “straying from the faith in greediness, and pierced through with many sorrows.”

**BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:** Matthew 19:21-24, Luke 19:8, Philippians 4:11-12

**LUST:** Lust can never be satisfied. It will always demand more. The only cure for lust is to starve it to death. If you feed it, it will go into a feeding frenzy and draw you deeper and deeper into it.

**BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:** Genesis 3:1-4, 6, 2 Samuel 11:2-4**,** 2 Samuel 12:7, 9-10, 13-14, Job 31:1

**MASTURBATION:** Uncleanness is immorality, one of the works of the flesh listed in Galatians 5:19, and it can be a powerful sin that controls your life. So it’s understandable that you could lose hope. **GOD’S PERSPECTIVE:** Romans 6:6, Galatians 5:19, 2 Timothy 2:25-26, James 1:13-15, 1 Peter 2:11, 2 Peter 2:19

**MATERIALISM:** Materialism is a lust for the things of the flesh, to possess worldly things. Jesus said, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21). That’s the bottom line: Where is your heart? Do you desire heavenly things or earthly things? Do you want a new car, home or clothes, or do you

desire spiritual things such as a greater faith in God and a love and kindness towards other people? Whatever things you treasure most reveal the condition of your heart.

**BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:** Luke 12:16-20

**PORNOGRAPHY:** When a person gives himself over to lust, he loses all sense of balance and propriety, and as such is a person who has given himself over to pornography. He has to keep going deeper and deeper into that realm to find a sense of satisfaction. But he’s never really satisfied. It’s an appetite that doesn’t quit—until it just has taken over and controls his life. He becomes enslaved and addicted. **BIBLICAL EXAMPLE :** 1 Kings 11:4-6, 11, 2 Peter 2:14

**SEXUAL IMMORALITY:** One of the great weaknesses of the church today is the toleration of sexual immorality such as fornication, or people living together outside of marriage, or homosexuality. **BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:** Genesis 39:12, 1 Corinthians 6:15-17

**SMOKING:** “As a Christian, can I smoke cigarettes? I find that it just sort of calms me down.” Let me ask you this: Can it get a hold on your life so that you’ve just got to have another one? Is that really calming you down? God never intended that man should be ruled by his flesh; God intended that you should be ruled by the Spirit. There are things that will hinder your progress in your walk with the Lord. They’re not wrong, whereby it’s a sin, but they are hindrances in the way of following Jesus. **BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:** 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

**TELEVISION:** Many people have stunted spiritual development because pleasure is their thing. Their minds are distracted and drawn away by the pleasures of this world. Movies and television contribute greatly to this. So many people spend their evenings in front of the television set, seeking pleasure, seeking to be entertained. Yet Paul the apostle speaks about the decadent society, the horrible things that were going on as far as violence and immorality, and he said, “Not only do they do such things but they take pleasure in those that do them” (Romans 1:32). **BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:** Psalm 50:18

**TEMPER:** A hot temper is like the wave of the sea that has no rest, driven by the winds of passion. It is like a volcano waiting to erupt. **BIBLICAL EXAMPLES:** 1 Samuel 20:27-33, Psalm 106:32-33

**TRANSGENDER:** In the King James Version of the Bible, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 reads, “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.” **BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:** Jude 7-8

Addictions spawn from three dimensions in a person’s life: addictive thinking patterns, addictive habits and what I call an “addict lifestyle.” The addictive thinking patterns are those thoughts and fantasies that don’t seem to go away; they become obsessions that often lead us to do certain things. These actions become the habits that embed the addict’s thoughts into their being and produce a way of living. This way of living becomes an addict lifestyle, where their way of living accommodates the bondage of addiction.

The key to understanding addictions, from a biblical perspective, is in seeing the meaning of the word **lust.** James writes, “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed” (James 1:14 KJV). In a biblical context, lust is not just a word describing sexual temptation, although that can certainly fit. Lust speaks of many forms of desires and cravings that God did not create us with, but can come at us in various ways. A good definition of biblical lust is forbidden desire and affection. It really speaks to the modern plague known as addictions. We could almost read James 1:14 as saying, “everyone is drawn away by his own addictions.“

Jesus helps us to see who the source of all addictive behaviors is—Satan himself. “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do” (John 8:44 KJV). His kingdom seeks to keep people bound in the realm of lust, knowing if they take the bait, one will struggle in torment. Satan is the father of lusts, meaning that he is the origin of those temptations and thoughts.

So many get caught up into self-condemnation, simply over the addictive pulls that course through their being. Yet when you realize who is at the source, you can begin to separate who you are as God’s child and who the enemy is within your thinking. Those addictive thoughts and pulls are not you!