

Addicted

To the Ways of the World, or the Ways of the Lord?

Introduction

1. **To be addicted to something can be either good or bad depending on what it is.**
 - A. **Webster's New World Dictionary defines Addicted as:**
"one addicted to some habit, as to the use of a drug."
2. **There are many things in this world that individuals can become addicted to.**
 - A. **The sinner needs to recognize those things in which he is addicted to in the world as Satan's devices trying to lure him away from being obedient to Christ.**
 - B. **The Christian must realize that Satan continues to get you and I hooked on something that will either pull us away from the Lord or will cause us to set a bad example before others.**
3. **The Christian must determine within himself to WANT to only be addicted to his service to God, not anything of the world.**
4. **This morning, were going to look at some things in this life that people become addicted to and then look at areas of godliness that every Christian should strive to want to be addicted to.**

ADDICTED: To the Ways of the World?

- 1. Jesus clearly taught that any disciple of His MUST NOT be an excuse maker, but rather be ready to come to Him.**

Luke 14:15-24

A. Isn't it true that there are things that one might be addicted to that keeps him from being ready to serve the Master as He intended for us to serve Him.

- 1) Excuses for our addiction are used often and they keep us from being ready to serve Him in our life.**

- 2. Jesus follows this up by saying:**

Luke 14:26-33

- 3. What are some of the things of this World that we can become addicted to?**

A. Tobacco Products

- 1) Tobacco Products have **PROVEN** to cause one to go to an early grave.
- 2) Tobacco Products have **PROVEN** to cause innocent people to suffer some of the same diseases because of “second hand smoke.”
- 3) Tobacco Products hurt the individual and it also hurts others. When a Christian uses these things they also hurt their influence on others.

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

- a) A Christian that is brought under bondage of Tobacco products does not have control over their body.

1 Corinthians 6:12, 19-20

Romans 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

Romans 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Relate to: John 2:19-21 > Would Jesus defile His body?

John 2:19-21

- 4) Can any Christian honestly say that when they're using tobacco products that they're glorifying God in their body? We must think on these things and be motivated to **NOT** be addicted to fleshly things!

B. Alcohol

- 1) **We can use all those same scriptures when it comes to alcohol use. But I want to share with you some more and give us something to think about.**
- 2) **In Leviticus 10:9f, it teaches about the conduct that is prescribed for the priests in that day. I realize that we are not under the Old law today, but the principle set forth here is something that we should take note of.**

Leviticus 10:9-10 "Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the **tabernacle of meeting**, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations, "that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean,

- a) **They were not to drink intoxicating drink because it is something that was not holy unto the Lord**
- b) **Christians are priests today and we are to be holy unto the Lord. Notice:**

1 Peter 1:15-16 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up **a spiritual house**, a holy priesthood, to **offer up spiritual sacrifices** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, **that you may proclaim the praises of Him** who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

2 Peter 3:11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,**

C. The things we choose to view.

- 1) **In this day and time the television and the theater screen has caused many a Christian to lower their standards of godliness.**
- 2) **We MUST be very careful what we choose to watch because not only will we be defiled, but others who watch us, may never see how important God is in our life, based on what we let come into our holy temple.**
- 3) **Jesus wrote:**

Luke 11:34-36 "The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your body also is full of darkness. "Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness. "If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, the whole body will be full of light, as when the bright shining of a lamp gives you light."

- a) **I sincerely hope that we can understand what Jesus was trying to teach us. Our holy temple, our inner being will only be filled with God's light if we choose for it to. The Devil wants this lamp of ours to grow dull and fade away.**

D. Any other Worldly device that we can become addicted to such as Gluttony, foul language, pleasures of life.

- 1) **These are things that we can become addicted to that lead us away, not closer to the eternal kingdom of God.**
4. **At this point in the lesson, I urge all of us to THINK. Think, are there things in my life right now that I MUST change so I can honestly say before God, that I am doing EVERYTHING in my body, God's Temple, for the glory of God?**

ADDICTED: To the Ways of the Lord?

- 1. The Alien Sinner must be determined to leave the ways of the World and be addicted to serving God.**
- 2. The Christian MUST only be satisfied when he realizes that he or she is truly striving to do those things which God has asked of them.**
- 3. The apostle Paul encouraged the Christians at Corinth to be addicted to the Lord in that he urged them to be:**

1 Corinthians 15:58...steadfast, immovable, **always abounding in the work of the Lord**, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

- A. Only those who set their sights on running the race in such a way as to receive the crown of glory will get to heaven. This should be an addiction of every Christian.**

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Hebrews 12:1-3

2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only **but also to all who have loved His appearing.**

- 4. The Christian that is truly addicted to the Lord will understand that their body is to be lived in such a way as if a living sacrifice to God.**

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, that you may **prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

Conclusion

1. **Could it be that you are having trouble finding the Lord because of Worldliness?**
 - A. **When we become determined to take away our worldly addictions, then we can clearly SEE the LORD in our life!**
 - 1) **But it won't happen until we take worldliness away!**
2. **Be determined this morning to take away any form of worldliness that you may have and become addicted to serving the Lord!**
 - B. **Remember:**

Matthew 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, **but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**

1 Corinthians 6:19-20:

This particular passage does not apply **ONLY** to what the apostle Paul is talking about in the verses just prior concerning the sin of sexual immorality, although that certainly would be included as he states.

Paul begins his argument by establishing the point that our bodies are members of Christ, the church. We became a part of His body when we were baptized into Christ (Gal 3:27). Whether one commits fornication, or any other sin, the fact is that we are sinning in our body.

Our body **IS the temple of the Holy Spirit** and does not apply to fornication only.

Think about it. Why would Paul call our body a temple of the Holy Spirit when it is fornicated against, but it is not a temple of the Holy Spirit at any other time?

Please notice two other scriptures where the use of the temple of God (our body) is used **without** a relationship to fornication only, but rather righteousness vs unrighteousness:

*1 Corinthians 3:16-17 Do you not know that **you are the temple of God** and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, **which temple you are.***

*Ephesians 2:19-22 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been **built on the foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, **grows into a holy temple in the Lord**, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*

Therefore, this passage (1 Cor 6:19-20) as used, is not taken out of context. We are to do nothing that will disrupt our influence (righteousness) in the sight of God and for God.

Smoking does this.