

TEMPTATION PART 2

Understanding Temptation

- A. Review: Temptation follows a pattern. *Jas 1:13-15*

- B. The problem is in the heart. *Mark 7:14-23; Prov 4:23; Matt 5:22, 28*

- C. Addictions are not diseases.

- D. God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able. *1 Cor 10:13*

- E. Christ has set you free from slavery to sin. *Rom 6:11, 18*

- F. You are responsible to fight sin. *Rom 6:12ff*

- G. Temptation needs to be dealt with radically. *Matt 5:29-30; 2 Tim 2:22*

- H. You need to see that God is most desirable. *John 7:38*
 - 1. Lady wisdom and madam folly both call out. *Prov 9:1-5, 13-18*

2. Temptation never will completely satisfy, only Christ can. *Isa 55:1-2*
3. Joseph's example. *Gen 39:9*
4. As counselors we need to be experiencing this to be able to teach our counselees.

Introduction and Review

- A. A controversial subject.
- B. Substance abuse is a growing problem.

What Does the Bible Say About Drinking

- A. There is a legitimate use for wine.
 1. Wine is a symbol of prosperity, celebration and blessing. *Prov 9:2; 3:10; Eccl 9:7; Ps 104:14-15; Judg 9:13; Joel 3:18*
 2. While the alcohol content of wine in biblical times was less than modern liquor, it was still potentially intoxicating. *John 2:10; Acts 2:15; Luke 7:33-34*
 3. Wine was used for medicinal purposes. *Prov 31:6-7; Luke 10:34; Matt 21:28; 1 Tim 5:23*

4. There is nothing in the Bible condemning the use of alcoholic beverages in moderation.

B. Drunkenness is sinful and foolish! *Prov 20:1; Isa 5:11-12, 22; Eph 5:18; Gal 5:21; Deut 21:20; Rom 13:13; Luke 21:34*

1. You harm yourself. *Jer 51:7*

- You lose control of yourself and become unfit for your responsibilities. *Prov 31:4-5*

- You will hurt physically. *Prov 23:29, 32-35*

- You lose financially: destitution. *Prov 23:21; 21:17*

- You are more prone to indulge in other sins: fighting, sexual immorality, blasphemy, drugs.
Prov 23:35; 20:1; Gen 19:32ff

2. You hurt others.

3. Ultimately you are sinning against your Creator and Master. *1 Cor 6:9, 19-20*

C. Why do people abuse intoxicating substances? A problem of the heart.

1. People try to escape reality.

2. People love pleasure rather than God. *Prov 23:31; 2 Tim 3:4; Phil 3:19*

3. Ultimately the love of pleasure is idolatry: seeking in substances the satisfaction which can only be found in the LORD. *Prov 20:1; Isa 55:1-2; Eccl 2:10-11; Luke 16:25*

4. The same applications could be made to people who seek satisfaction in food (gluttony), material things (greed), etc. *Prov 23:20-21; 21:17*

How Can a Substance Abuser Be Set Free?

- A. The recovery movement (AA/12 step) is unscientific and unbiblical. (See *The Useful Lie*, by William L. Playfair, M.D.)
 1. AA teaches that substance abuse is a disease: the medical model/recovery.
 - The alcoholic is born with the disease and is powerless.

 - When he is exposed to the substance, he is under control of the addiction.

 - The key to recovery is for the abuser to identify oneself as an alcoholic.

 - The alcoholic must participate in AA group meetings for the rest of his life.

- The alcoholic must totally abstain from alcohol.
 - The recovery model is also being used for gambling, narcotics, theft, and sexual sin.
 - This model of addiction is not supported by medical research (see Playfair).
2. The Bible teaches that substance abuse is sin: the moral model/redemption.
- While it is true that we are all born sinful and that some may be more tempted by some sins than others, we are responsible for rebelling against God's law.
 - People become addicted by making sinful choices. *John 8:34; 1 Cor 6:12*
 - Believers are no longer enslaved to sin (or substances). *Rom 6:18*
 - We find our identity in Christ. *1 Cor 6:9-11*
3. AA is a counterfeit religion.
- A counterfeit book (and decalogue).
 - A counterfeit theology: The Higher Power: "God as you understand Him"

- A counterfeit anthropology: the disease model, codependency.
- A counterfeit redemption experience: admission that you are an alcoholic.
- A counterfeit identity: alcoholic versus Christian. *1 Cor 6:9-12*
- A counterfeit church: fellowship, discipleship, etc.
- Counterfeit evangelism.

4. Is it worthwhile to have “Christian” 12-step programs? *Lev 18:3ff; Col 2:3, 8-10*

5. Should we encourage unbelievers to go into 12-step programs?

B. Biblical “recovery” from substance abuse. *Eph 5:18; 4:22-24; Rom 13:13-14*

1. Put off sin. Do not get drunk with wine. *Rom 13:13; 1 Pet 4:3*

- Repent: *2 Cor 7:10-11*

- Look to God to forgive you through Christ. *1 John 1:8-2:2*

- As a new creature in Christ. Old things have passed away. *2 Cor 5:17; 1 Cor 6:11*

- You are no longer a slave to sin. *Rom 6:18*

- Live a life of sobriety and self control. *Gal 5:23; 1 Cor 6:12*

2. Put on righteousness. Be filled with the Spirit. *Rom 13:14; 6:18; Gal 5:16*

- Be controlled by the Holy Spirit instead of substances.

- Find your pleasure and satisfaction in Christ's spiritual blessings. *Isa 55:3*

- Enjoy earthly blessings in moderation to the glory of God with thankfulness. *Prov 25:16; 1 Tim 4:4-5; 1 Cor 10:31*

- Invest your time and energy in your God-given vocation. *Eph 5:15-18*

C. Practice biblical confrontation/discipline. *Matt 18:15-20*

1. Level 1: Self-control.

2. Level 2: Personal confrontation: 1 on 1. *Matt 18:15; Gal 6:1; Eph 4:15*

3. Level 3: Confrontation with 2 or 3 witnesses. *Matt 18:16*

4. Level 4: Tell it to the church. *Matt 18:17a*

5. Level 5: Excommunication. *Matt 18:17b-20; 1 Cor 5:11; 6:9-10*

6. After repentance there is restoration. *2 Cor 2:5-11*

D. Does the biblical method always work? Sometimes people choose to remain in sin.

Concluding Applications

A. Make wise personal choices with alcoholic beverages.

1. Don't abuse your liberty by becoming intoxicated or breaking the law.

2. Don't be enslaved to your appetites. Be self-controlled. *1 Cor 6:12; 9:27*

3. If your conscience is not clear, it is better to abstain. *Rom 14:23; 1 Cor 10:31*

4. Don't put yourself into situations in which you might be tempted to misuse alcohol.

Prov 23:30a; 1 Cor 10:12; 1 Pet 2:16; Matt 5:29-30

- Evil companions. *Prov 23:20; 1 Pet 4:3; 1 Cor 15:33*

- Don't assume that it couldn't happen to you. *1 Cor 10:12; Gen 9:20ff*

5. Don't abuse your liberty by causing a weaker brother to stumble. *Rom 14:21; Gal 5:13; 1 Cor 8:13*

B. The key issue is your heart. *Prov 4:2*

Data Gathering

A. What is the counselee's history in dealing with this temptation?

B. What is the counselee's pattern of falling into this temptation?

C. Are you sure the counselee is a Christian?

Homework

A. Keep a temptation log.

B. Radically deal with sources of temptation. *Matt 5:29-30; Prov 5:8; 2 Tim 2:22*

C. Fill your mind with what is best. *Phil 4:8-9*

D. Be busy serving God and others.

E. Establish accountability.



Books

Cleveland, Mike, *Pure Freedom: Breaking the Addiction to Pornography*.

Cleveland, Mike, *The Lord's Table: A Biblical Approach to Weight Loss*.

Fitzpatrick, Elyse, *Love to Eat, Hate to Eat*.

Harris, Joshua, *Not Even a Hint*.

Piper, John, *Sex and the Supremacy of Christ*.

Mack, Wayne, *Homework Manual for Biblical Living, Volume 1, "Life Dominating Sins."*

Playfair, William L. M.D., *The Useful Lie*.

Welch, Edward, *Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave*.



Booklets

Adams, Jay, *What Do You Do When You Know You're Hooked?*

Powlison, David, *Pornography: Slaying the Dragon*.

Welch, Edward, *Just One More: When Desires Don't Take No for an Answer*.



Audios

Fitzpatrick, Elyse. "Love to Eat, Hate to Eat."

Mack, Wayne. "Dealing with Lustful Temptation."

Needham, Bob. "Drug and Alcohol Abuse."

Newheiser, Jim. "Satisfaction for the Thirsty: Isa. 55."

Newheiser, Jim. "Sexual Wisdom: Proverbs 5-7."

Newheiser, Jim. "The Pain of Porn."

Playfair. "Helping Addicts."

Playfair. "Helping Alcoholics."

Playfair. "The Twelve Steps and AA."

Scipione, George. "Life Dominating Sins."

Welch, Ed. "Substance Abuse Counseling."