

The Oologah Informer

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Addictions

By Jeremy Northrop

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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

Do you believe you are the only one's
going to heaven?
(Matthew 19:25-26)

PM Sermon:

Strange things you hear about the
church of Christ (Part 1)

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Ecclesiastes - D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

Acts – V. Smith

In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

On Channel 6-2 Sundays @ 7:30 am

The Truth in Love on Channel 47

Sundays @ 8am

Oologah Internet Radio Programs

Vance' Program on Wednesdays
@ 6:15pm & Thursdays @ 6:15am

LIVE broadcast on Mondays @ 5pm

Visit www.tgrn.org to listen or visit
www.oologahradio.org for more info.

Webster defines addiction as a “compulsive need for and use of a habit-forming substance (as heroin, nicotine, or alcohol) characterized by tolerance and by well-defined physiological symptoms upon withdrawal; *broadly* : persistent compulsive use of a substance known by the user to be harmful.” While addiction to a substance of any kind is certainly real, a person can also be addicted to a behavior or habit of life. Examples would be gambling and sex addictions. Peter describes such people “as natural brute beasts...Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children” (2 Peter 2:12-14).

One biblical principle that is violated when a person is addicted to a substance or behavior is self-control. Paul listed self-control as part of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:23). Peter listed it as a quality Christians need in order to increase their faith (2 Peter 1:5-8). When a person is addicted to a substance or behavior, he or she is not exercising self-control. Part of the nature of addiction is the person is out of control. A person involved in an addiction of any kind will usually deny, minimize, rationalize and even blame others for the situation attempting to prove it is not as bad as it is. No matter how one justifies his or her actions, it does not change the fact the addict is not practicing self-control.

Another biblical principle that is violated when a person is an addict is stewardship. Jesus taught on the principle of stewardship in the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30. Paul spoke of the body of the Christian as the temple of God and that destroying it is sin. In 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, he says, “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.” Addictions both physical and behavioral generally destroy the body.

While there are certainly other biblical principles that are defied when a person is addicted, the Bible also provides principles for dealing with addiction. The idea of redirecting efforts used in addiction is a biblical concept. In Ephesians 5, Paul describes the brethren as once being ‘darkness’ but now are the ‘light of the Lord.’ Paul admonishes them to walk (live) “as children of light” (5:8). Several times in the writing of Paul, he admonished Christians to no longer live one way but rather to live a certain way (Colossians 3:9-17; Romans 6:5-14; 2 Corinthians 5:12-21). If a person were to simply ‘put off’ an evil addiction, then he or she has only accomplished half of the biblical imperative. The person must also ‘put on’ the righteousness of God.

This brings up one final point — good addictions. In Romans 6:17-18, Paul said, “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants

of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” To be a slave or an addict of righteousness would certainly be biblical. When Paul spoke of the household of Stephanas in 1 Corinthians 16, he commented that they were “addicted...to the ministry of the saints” (verse 15). Today, people who want to follow God need to understand that to be enslaved to a substance or certain behaviors would certainly be sin, but to be addicted to His work, His word, and His church is a command of God.