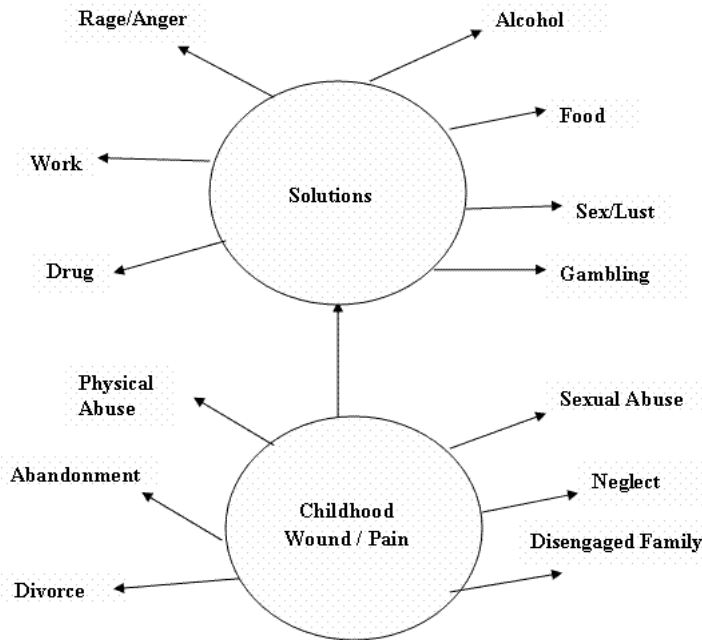


Addiction

Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has conflicts? Who has complaints? Who has wounds for no reason? Who has red eyes? Those who linger over wine, those who go looking for mixed wine. Don't gaze at wine when it is red, when it gleams in the cup and goes down smoothly. In the end it bites like a snake and stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, and you will say absurd things. You'll be like someone sleeping out at sea or lying down on the top of a ship's mast. "They struck me, but I feel no pain! They beat me, but I didn't know it! When will I wake up? I'll look for another drink." - Proverbs 23:29-35 HCSB

Introduction

Image of sources and symptoms of addiction



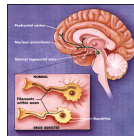
Sex, pornography, drugs, alcohol, nicotine (whether smokes or chewed), caffeine, gambling, rage, legal drugs...

Image of pills



All are symptoms of underlying problem – the desire to artificially improve our lives rather than take the natural way.

Image of brain and addicted dendrites



It's like the old commercial; "This is your brain...this is your brain on drugs." We take a natural function of the brain, its ability to reward useful behavior and we begin tripping that switch over and over until that part of us becomes deadened. It takes more and more of whatever stimulus to get the same effect. It takes more and more drugs to get the same high. More and more alcohol

to get us truly drunk. More and more rage or risky sex to get the same feeling of excitement and thrill.

Image of drugs as a trap with statement.



Artificial hope, regardless of form, is a trap.

2 Peter 2:19 HCSB They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption, since people are enslaved to whatever defeats them.

The Lord will punish those who manipulate other's addictions for the satisfaction of their own desires.

- Habakkuk 2:15-16 HCSB Woe to him who gives his neighbors drink, pouring out your wrath and even making them drunk, in order to look at their nakedness! 16 You will be filled with disgrace instead of glory. You also--drink, and expose your uncircumcision! The cup in the LORD's right hand will come around to you, and utter disgrace will cover your glory.

Addiction can become a driving factor in our lives. When it does, we are in danger.

- Isaiah 5:11 HCSB Woe to those who rise early in the morning in pursuit of beer, who linger into the evening, inflamed by wine.

Toxicosis, substance abuse and loss of control is repeatedly warned against in Scriptures.

- Proverbs 20:1 HCSB Wine is a mocker, beer is a brawler, and whoever staggers because of them is not wise.
- Proverbs 21:17 HCSB The one who loves pleasure will become a poor man; whoever loves wine and oil will not get rich.

It doesn't say you can't take drugs to help with physical deficits. It says to not abuse the drugs. It doesn't say to not drink, it says to not get drunk. It doesn't say to not have sex; it says to only have it with your spouse. It doesn't say to not get angry; it says to not sin. Get mad at the right things and keep it under control.

Christ warned against drunkenness, not drinking.

- Luke 21:34 HCSB "Be on your guard, so that your minds are not dulled from carousing, drunkenness, and worries of life, or that day will come on you unexpectedly

Paul taught the Ephesians that being addicted to anything, whether it be a substance, partying, sexual behavior or even extreme emotions is wrong.

- Ephesians 5:18 HCSB And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless actions, but be filled with the Spirit:
- Romans 13:13 HCSB Let us walk with decency, as in the daylight: not in carousing and drunkenness; not in sexual impurity and promiscuity; not in quarreling and jealousy.

The use of substance medically is fine. It is when it becomes excessive that it becomes enslaving.

- 1 Timothy 5:23 HCSB Don't continue drinking only water, but use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.

It is the excess of any desire from which we are to turn away.

- 1 Peter 4:3-4 HCSB For there has already been enough time spent in doing the will of the pagans: carrying on in unrestrained behavior, evil desires, drunkenness, orgies, carousing, and lawless idolatry. 4 In regard to this, they are surprised that you don't plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation--and they slander you.

The ministerial qualifications include not being addicted to alcohol, anger, money or fame.

- 1 Timothy 3:3, 8 HCSB not addicted to wine, not a bully but gentle, not quarrelsome, not greedy-- Deacons, likewise, should be worthy of respect, not hypocritical, not drinking a lot of wine, not greedy for money
- Titus 1:7 HCSB For an overseer, as God's manager, must be blameless, not arrogant, not quick tempered, not addicted to wine, not a bully, not greedy for money,

Older women are particularly admonished to not be slaves to drink.

- Titus 2:3 HCSB In the same way, older women are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not addicted to much wine. They are to teach what is good,

Substance abuse infuriates the temper.

- Proverbs 20:1 HCSB Wine is a mocker, beer is a brawler, and whoever staggers because of them is not wise.

Substance abuse impairs the judgment and memory.

- 1 Samuel 25:37 HCSB In the morning when Nabal sobered up, his wife told him about these events. Then he had a seizure and became paralyzed.
- Hosea 4:11 HCSB Promiscuity, wine, and new wine take away one's understanding.
- Proverbs 23:31-35 HCSB Don't gaze at wine when it is red, when it gleams in the cup and goes down smoothly. 32 In the end it bites like a snake and stings like a viper. 33 Your eyes will see strange things, and you will say absurd things. 34 You'll be like someone sleeping out at sea or lying down on the top of a ship's mast. 35 "They struck me, but I feel no pain! They beat me, but I didn't know it! When will I wake up? I'll look for another drink."
- Proverbs 31:4-5 HCSB It is not for kings, Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine or for rulers to desire beer. 5 Otherwise, they will drink, forget what is decreed, and pervert justice for all the oppressed.
- Isaiah 28:7 HCSB These also stagger because of wine and stumble under the influence of beer: priest and prophet stagger because of beer, they are confused by wine. They stumble because of beer, they are muddled in their visions, they stumble in their judgments.

Substance abuse leads to sorrow and contention.

- Proverbs 23:29-30 HCSB Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has conflicts? Who has complaints? Who has wounds for no reason? Who has red eyes? 30 Those who linger over wine, those who go looking for mixed wine.

Substance abuse leads to remorse.

- Proverbs 23:31-32 HCSB Don't gaze at wine when it is red, when it gleams in the cup and goes down smoothly. 32 In the end it bites like a snake and stings like a viper.

Substance abuse will inflame your passions and lead you to spiritual blindness.

- Isaiah 5:11-12 HCSB Woe to those who rise early in the morning in pursuit of beer, who linger into the evening, inflamed by wine. 12 At their feasts they have lyre, harp,

tambourine, flute, and wine. They do not perceive the LORD's actions, and they do not see the work of His hands.

Substance abuse overcharges the heart and dulls the mind, allowing terrible things to “sneak up” on you.

- Luke 21:34 HCSB "Be on your guard, so that your minds are not dulled from carousing, drunkenness, and worries of life, or that day will come on you unexpectedly

Substance abuse leads to sexual impurity, promiscuity, quarreling and jealousy.

- Romans 13:13 HCSB Let us walk with decency, as in the daylight: not in carousing and drunkenness; not in sexual impurity and promiscuity; not in quarreling and jealousy.

Substance abuse is directly related to promiscuity.

- Hosea 4:11-12 HCSB Promiscuity, wine, and new wine take away one's understanding. 12 My people consult their wooden idols, and their divining rods inform them. For a spirit of promiscuity leads them astray; they act promiscuously in disobedience to their God.

Substance abuse leads to error.

- Isaiah 28:7 HCSB These also stagger because of wine and stumble under the influence of beer: priest and prophet stagger because of beer, they are confused by wine. They stumble because of beer, they are muddled in their visions, they stumble in their judgments.

Substance abuse leads to poverty.

- Proverbs 21:17 HCSB The one who loves pleasure will become a poor man; whoever loves wine and oil will not get rich.
- Proverbs 23:20-21 HCSB Don't associate with those who drink too much wine, or with those who gorge themselves on meat. 21 For the drunkard and the glutton will become poor, and gogginess will clothe them in rags.

Substance abuse leads to contempt of God's work.

- Isaiah 5:11-12 HCSB Woe to those who rise early in the morning in pursuit of beer, who linger into the evening, inflamed by wine. 12 At their feasts they have lyre, harp, tambourine, flute, and wine. They do not perceive the LORD's actions, and they do not see the work of His hands.

Substance abuse leads to scorning authority.

- Hosea 7:5-7 HCSB On the day of our king, the princes are sick with the heat of wine-- there is a conspiracy with traitors. 6 For they--their hearts like an oven--draw him into their oven. Their anger smolders all night; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire. 7 All of them are as hot as an oven, and they consume their rulers. All their kings fall; not one of them calls on Me.

It is foolish to yield to addiction.

- Proverbs 20:1 HCSB Wine is a mocker, beer is a brawler, and whoever staggers because of them is not wise.

It is debasing.

- Isaiah 28:7-8 HCSB These also stagger because of wine and stumble under the influence of beer: priest and prophet stagger because of beer, they are confused by wine. They

stumble because of beer, they are muddled in their visions, they stumble in their judgments. 8 Indeed, all their tables are covered with vomit; there is no place without a stench.

Substance abuse is forbidden to the Christian.

- Ephesians 5:18 HCSB And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless actions, but be filled with the Spirit:
- Luke 21:34 HCSB "Be on your guard, so that your minds are not dulled from carousing, drunkenness, and worries of life, or that day will come on you unexpectedly

Addiction, regardless of its form, is a work of the flesh.

- Galatians 5:19-21 HCSB Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar, about which I tell you in advance--as I told you before--that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Addiction is a characteristic of the wicked and a sign of coming destruction.

- Daniel 5:1-6 HCSB King Belshazzar held a great feast for 1,000 of his nobles and drank wine in their presence. 2 Under the influence of the wine, Belshazzar gave orders to bring in the gold and silver vessels that his predecessor Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, wives, and concubines could drink from them. 3 So they brought in the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, wives, and concubines drank from them. 4 They drank the wine and praised their gods made of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone. 5 At that moment the fingers of a man's hand appeared and began writing on the plaster of the king's palace wall next to the lampstand. As the king watched the hand that was writing, 6 his face turned pale, and his thoughts so terrified him that his hip joints shook and his knees knocked together.

Unchecked addiction may be a sign that you have not yet been saved and that you may end up being excluded from heaven.

- 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 HCSB Do you not know that the unjust will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: no sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexuals, 10 thieves, greedy people, drunkards, revilers, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom.
- Galatians 5:19-21 HCSB Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar, about which I tell you in advance--as I told you before--that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Note: That's not to say that there is no hope:

- 1 Corinthians 6:11 HCSB Some of you **were** like this; but you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

The Ransomed should be cautious that in dealing with those given to addiction that they don't fall into the sin themselves.

- Jude 1:22-25 HCSB Have mercy on some who doubt; 23 save others by snatching them from the fire; on others have mercy in fear, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

24 Now to Him who is able to protect you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless and with great joy, 25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time, now, and forever. Amen.

- 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 HCSB Therefore, whoever thinks he stands must be careful not to fall! 13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to humanity. God is faithful and He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation He will also provide a way of escape, so that you are able to bear it.

Don't take twisted pride in your addiction.

- Isaiah 5:22 HCSB Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, who are fearless at mixing beer,
- Isaiah 28:1-3 HCSB Woe to the majestic crown of Ephraim's drunkards, and to the fading flower of its beautiful splendor, which is on the summit above the rich valley. Woe to those overcome with wine. 2 Look, the Lord has a strong and mighty one--like a devastating hail storm, like a storm with strong flooding waters. He will bring it across the land with His hand. 3 The majestic crown of Ephraim's drunkards will be trampled underfoot.

If you are addicted, don't associate with other addicts who are not seeking help.

- Proverbs 23:20 HCSB Don't associate with those who drink too much wine, or with those who gorge themselves on meat.

Friend or loved one of the addict – love them truly. Detest that which is evil in their lives while recognizing and clinging to that which is good.

- Romans 12:9 HCSB Love must be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good.

Seek help from the Great Physician.

- John 5:6-8 HCSB When Jesus saw him lying there and knew he had already been there a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to get well?" 7 "Sir," the sick man answered, "I don't have a man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I'm coming, someone goes down ahead of me." 8 "Get up," Jesus told him, "pick up your bedroll and walk!"

Notice that Jesus asked "Do you want to get well?" I could ask you the same thing! Are you content to wallow in your chains? Are you satisfied with your shackles? Do you enjoy being a slave?

Or do you really want to overcome your addiction? You can. Help is available. It is only a matter of will. You are human. You have a mind and a will. You have the ability to dream and envision the impossible. And if you place your trust in the Great Physician you can even make it come about.

Addict – Jesus commands you take up your bedroll and walk.