



The Extremes In Dealing With The Chemical Abuser
 Dr. John D. Street - The Master College

Extremes Compared To God's View				Villains
Victims	 <u>The Problem</u>	God's View	 <u>The Problem</u>	
Incurable Sickness		Life Dominating Sin Genesis 4:7		Unforgivable Sin
No Will To Change	<u>The Person</u>	Christ Provides Both The Will And The Way Philippians 2:12-13	<u>The Person</u>	No Way To Change
Pity And Sympathy	<u>The Perspective</u>	Caring Confrontation Romans 15:14	<u>The Perspective</u>	Superiority
Life Long Condition - Therapy, Drugs, Support Groups	<u>The Prescription</u>	Biblical Counseling And Progressive Sanctification Hebrews 12:11	<u>The Prescription</u>	Instantaneous Change Or No Change
No Hope - Just Cope	<u>The Prospect</u>	Complete Transformation Through Christ 1 Cor. 6:9-11	<u>The Prospect</u>	No Help And No Hope

God's View Of Dealing With The Chemical Abuser

1. The Problem: Life Dominating Sin

a. Genesis 4:7, If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

2. The Person: Christ provides both the will and the way

a. Philippians 2:12-13, Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

3. The Perspective: Caring Confrontation

a. Romans 15:14, I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

4. The Prescription: Biblical Counseling And Progressive Sanctification

a. Hebrews 12:11, No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

5. The Prospect: Complete Transformation Through Christ

a. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. 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.

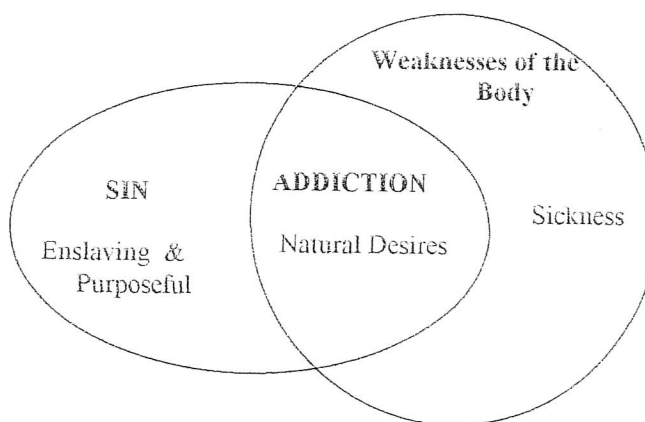
The Biblical Model

1. **Human Depravity has an intensifying Potential!**
 - a. **Psalm 10:3, He boasts of the cravings of his heart; he blesses the greedy and reviles the Lord.**
2. **Sin's desire is to enslave/control!**
 - a. Starts in the heart, cravings, self-gratification and pleasure are the ruling desires that capture them.
 - b. **Genesis 4:7, If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.**
 - c. **Genesis 19:30-38; Romans 7:14-25; 1 Corinthians 10:6-14**
3. **The Helpless feeling of "being out of control" is part of the misery of God's judgement upon man's sin.**
 - a. "There was no misery in the garden before the fall, and all pain, crying, etc., will be eliminated in the eternal state as well (Revelations 21:4). Pain, sorrow and the other forms of human misery are a result of the curse."
 - b. Misuse of Alcohol and drunkenness is the Bible's picture of chemical abuse.
 - c. **Proverbs 23:29-35**
4. **The Christian who is snared by an addictive substance must understand that the painful discipline of self-denial is "balanced by God's wise purposes in providence."**
 - a. **1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.**
 - b. Pain is used by God for numerous purposes:
 - i. God uses pain to remind us all is not right here yet, and to fix our hope on the coming life, when it will be (**Romans 8:18-25**).
 - ii. Pain is used to purify and teach us (**Hebrews 2:10 & 5:8**)
5. **The experience of "feeling out-of-control" does not diminish your responsibility for your condition.**
 - a. "the experience of being out of control in no way diminishes responsibility because in our sinfulness we are simultaneously enslaved and calculating."
 - i. **Romans 14:17, For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**
 - ii. **Proverbs 31:4-5; Isaiah 5:11-12; 22; Isaiah 65:11-12;**

COUNSELING THE CHEMICAL ABUSER
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A. Breaking a life-dominating sin habit involves a total life Restructuring!

Addiction: Using Biblical Categories



***IMPORTANT!** The goal of Biblical counseling is easily lost with the incessant demands of chemical abuse. Your goal for them must always be to become God's kind of person, not just to stop the abuse.

1. Πλησμονη (play-mon-ae), fleshly indulgence: the process of indulging in or procuring the satisfaction of specific needs and giving yourself over to your desires.
 - Colossians 2:23 - human laws and external restraints cannot keep the flesh from satisfying itself.

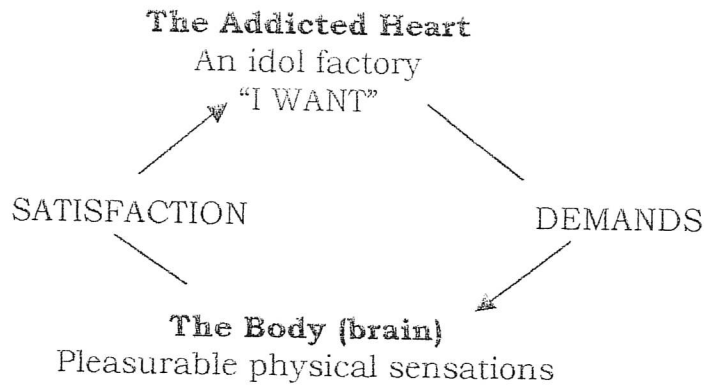
2. Επιθυμew (epi-thu-meoh), to strongly desire, lust, or covet.

- Galatians 5:17 - the body lusts against the spirit
- Galatians 5:16 - we should not fulfill the desires of the body
- Ephesians 4:22 - fleshly desires are self-deceiving
- Titus 2:12 - we should deny ungodliness and worldly desires
- James 1:14 - Fleshly desires will lure us away from godliness
- I Peter 4:1-6 - arm yourself to suffer - cleanse

B. Permanent change is a two -factored process! (Eph. 4:22-24)
 Putting Off Sin And Putting On Righteousness

1. There must be across the board life-style change.

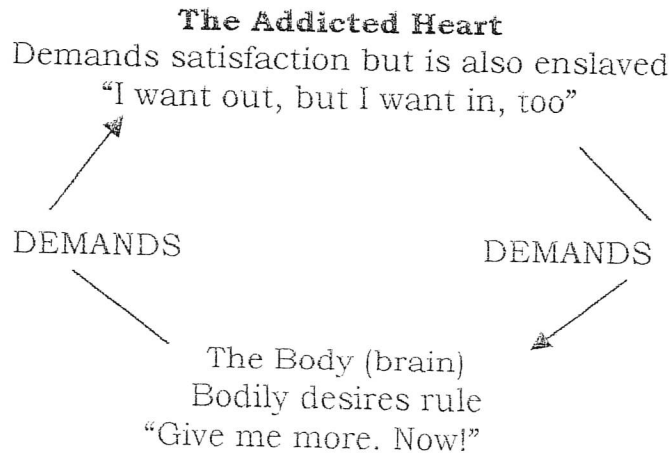
The Early Cycle of Addiction



2. There must be across the board life-style change.

C. This change will include radical amputation! (Matt. 5:29-30)
 Cutting off that which has become most precious, the right hand and the right eye.

Later Stages of Addiction



Putting Off:

- Lifestyle of lies
- Friendship with fools
- Manipulative methods
- A Self-serving attitude

Putting On:

- Openess and honesty
- Faithful friends
- Trusting God
- A Serving Attitude

D. Involvement of other church members is often necessary!
(Gal. 6:1-2)

One of the most effective ways to involve the church in comprehensive change is assigning your counselee to an elder or shepherding overseer for weekly, and if necessary, daily meetings of accountability.

Sometimes they may meet for breakfast where the focus is upon establishing a consistent personal Bible study habit along with a discussion of his daily schedule. You may give your counselee homework to invite an elder and his family over for dinner and then let them demonstrate family devotions and prayer.

The goal is to engulf the counselee, his thinking and behavior patterns, in the Word of God. These changes must be taken very seriously. There is nothing more effective than a structured, disciplined lifestyle to break the enslaving habits of sin.