

Sermon Notes – Addiction

The following is a series of thoughts/ideas for you to use in a sermon – obviously how you use them, and what else you add, is entirely up to you!

1 READING:

1 Corinthians 6. 12-20

2 DEFINITION:

(taken from Psychology Today website - <https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/basics/addiction>)

‘Addiction is a condition in which a person engages in use of a substance or in a behaviour for which the rewarding effects provide a compelling incentive to repeatedly pursue the behaviour despite detrimental consequences. Addiction may involve the use of substances such as alcohol, inhalants, opioids, cocaine, nicotine, and others, or behaviours such as gambling; there is scientific evidence that the addictive substances and behaviours share a key neurobiological feature—they intensely activate brain pathways of reward and reinforcement, many of which involve the neurotransmitter dopamine.’

3 DISCUSSION:

‘All things are lawful to me’ (6.12) – See also ch. 10.23.

NLT: ‘You say “I am allowed to do anything”’

Quotation marks here and in 10.23 are supplied to indicate that it is probably a commonly used slogan among the Corinthians (ESV Study Bible notes on 6. 12-13). This stems from one idea that the body is permitted to have anything it craves.

A. Taking 6.12 and 10.23

- i) Not all things are helpful (6.12)
- ii) I will not be dominated by anything (6.12)
- iii) Not all things build up (10.23)

This gives us three questions concerning choices in our lives

- i) Is it helpful?
- ii) Will it dominate me?
- iii) Will it build me up?

B. Taking 6.13b – 6.19b

- i) The body is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body (6.13b)
- ii) Your bodies are members of Christ (6.15)
- iii) Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit within you (6.19)

This give us three questions about choices in our lives as believers

- i) Would I offer this to the Lord?
- ii) Would Jesus be happy to be linked with it?
- iii) Will it make the Holy Spirit feel more at home in me?

C. Taking 6.19b – 20

- i) You are not your own (6.19b)
- ii) You are bought with a price (6.20)
- iii) So glorify God in your body (6.20)

This leads us to three statements that help us with choices

- i) We don't own ourselves
- ii) What God paid for us is far above what we would value ourselves
- iii) Only put things in the body that glorify God

4 EXTRA THOUGHT:

KJV 1 Corinthians 16.15

... (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

The ESV says:

... and that they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints.

Greek = tassō = 'to arrange in an orderly manner, that is to dispose (to a certain position or lot), addict, appoint, determine, ordain, set.' (Bible with Strong's app)

In addition we set or devote ourselves under the authority of a substance or behaviour - not in most cases to deliberately come under its authority.