

ADDICTION

- I. Direct Scripture references pertaining to "addiction."
 - A. Christian leaders
 - I Tim. 3:3 - "not addicted to wine"
 - I Tim. 3:8 - "not addicted to much wine"
 - Titus 1:7 - "not addicted to wine"
 - B. Older women
 - Titus 2:3 - "not enslaved to much wine"

- II. Considering the meaning of the word "addiction."
 - A. Webster's Dict. - "to surrender oneself to something obsessively or habitually."
 - B. Gerald May - *Addiction and Grace*
 - 1. Def. - "compulsive, habitual behavior that limits freedom of human desire"
 - 2. Attraction additions and aversion additions (indulgence and denial)
 - C. Characteristics: "must have," "want more," "no problem," "can't stop."
 - D. Same patterns of behavior also identified as weaknesses, vulnerabilities, character faults, neuroses, "flesh," besetting sins, life-dominating sins, strongholds of sins, demons, idolatry, etc.
 - E. Differing personalities and tendencies to obsess:
 - S - Success, significance, freedom, leader, competition, excitement
 - E - Approval, social, popularity, talk, relationship, love
 - L - Security, attachment, tradition, belonging, status quo
 - F - Knowledge, accuracy, structure, organization, perfection

- III. Other Scriptural references to consider
 - A. Correlation with Biblical word "flesh"
 - Rom. 13:14 - "make no provision for the flesh in regard to its desires"
 - Gal. 5:24 - "have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires"
 - Eph. 2:3 - "formerly walked in the desires of our flesh indulging the desires..."
 - I Peter 2:11 - "abstain from fleshly desires, which wage war against soul"
 - James 1:13 - "carried away, seduced by tempter, under our desires"
 - B. Correlation with Biblical idea of "besetting sins"
 - Heb. 12:1 - "the sin that so easily entangles us"
 - Rom. 14:23 - "whatever is not of faith is sin"
 - C. Correlation with Biblical concept of "idolatry"
 - Phil. 3:19 - "god is their appetite,...set minds on earthly things"
 - Gerald May - "addictions make idolaters of us all"
 - Philip Yancey - "what the Old Testament calls idolatry, enlightened Westerners call 'addictions'."

- IV. Dealing with addictive patterns
 - Phil. 4:19 - "God shall supply all your needs...in Christ Jesus"
 - Prov. 13:25 - "the righteous has enough to satisfy his appetite"
 - John 8:32,36 - "the truth shall set you free"
 - Gal. 5:1 - "It was for freedom that Christ set us free"
 - II Cor. 3:5 - "not adequate in ourselves...adequacy is from God"
 - II Chron. 20:15 - "battle is not yours, but God's"
 - Exod. 23:29-33 - "I will not drive them out in a single year"