

Sermon Notes

"Substance Abuse and Addiction"

Various Texts

September 1, 2019

Rom. 14:19 – Will this result in ...

1 Cor. 10:31 – Will this ...

1 Cor. 9:12, 22-23; 10:33 – Will this cause a hindrance to ...

Rom. 14:17 – Will this contribute to ...

Rom. 14:15; 15:1-2 – Am I insisting on exercising ...
rather than giving preference to ...

Rom. 14:1-13a – Am I imposing my own ...

For Further Study:

Read Stonestreet & Kunkle, A Practical Guide to Culture,
chap 13.

5. What personal experiences have you had with addiction?
What were the short- and long-term consequences?

6. How are alcohol and drug use portrayed in media? In
what ways are these portrayals incomplete?

7. What addictive substances are most prevalent in your
community? What effects do you see?

Introduction

Conclusion

Let's Pray:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 09-01-19

Questions adapted from John Stonestreet & Brett Kunkle, A Practical Guide to Culture, David C. Cook, Colorado Springs, CO, 2017, p. 256-57.

Getting Started:

1. Here is a list of (mostly) pleasure producing activities often used to avoid experiencing negative feelings. Checkmark ones you have utilized to “buffer” yourself.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Movies/TV | <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts/Crafts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol | <input type="checkbox"/> Board Games |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports (watching or playing) | <input type="checkbox"/> Work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Video Gaming | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs | <input type="checkbox"/> Gambling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Smoking | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-harm (Cutting, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vaping | <input type="checkbox"/> Weight control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pornography | <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme Risks |

Any others that you would add?

2. When does an activity from such a list become an idol? What would indicate that it may be an addiction?

Digging Deeper:

3. What do the following texts teach about the bondage of sin? What do they teach regarding the freedom which Christ secured on our behalf?

Romans 6:1-23

Galatians 4:3-9; 5:1

2 Peter 2:18-22

John 8:31-36

Titus 3:3

4. In Romans and 1 Corinthians, Paul addresses debated matters of conduct. In the particular context, it had to do with freedom to eat meat sold from the meat market after the animal had been slaughtered in a pagan religious ritual. Should Christians eat such meat? Although this is not a typical North American concern, it reveals principles for determining whether Christians can or should participate in a variety of activities which are not specifically addressed by scriptural precept or prohibition, nor by a general biblical principle binding for all Christians at all times and places.

For example, you might take drinking alcoholic beverages as an example. What guidelines does Paul identify in the following texts that would help you decide if and when you could partake? Each is phrased as an evaluative question. Complete each question based on what you find in each reference (the first two are done for you as examples).

Rom. 14:19; 1 Cor. 10:23 – Will this build up my faith and the faith of others?

1 Cor. 6:12; 10:23 – Will this be profitable to me and others?

Rom. 14:13, 20-21; 1 Cor. 8:9 – If someone knows of and imitates my behavior, will it lead them ...

Rom. 13:14 – Will this predispose me to ...