

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

www.nccdighton.org

2/28/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part
54

The Power to Overcome

- 2Pe 2:9a then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation...
- 2Pet. 2:19b ...for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

Addiction

When a specific sin rules you (teshuqa - Gen 4:7), it has become an addiction. For example, religion is a global addiction to self-righteousness and self-sanctification.

Jonathan Hari

"The opposite of addiction is not sobriety...the opposite of addiction is connection."

Jn 14:6

*Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."*

Addiction

When a specific sin rules you (teshuqa - Gen 4:7), it has become an addiction. For example, religion is a global addiction to self-righteousness and self-sanctification.

Which Addict Are You?

- "Techno-Junky": all your spare time on technology
- "The Day-Planner": all your time making/executing plans
- "Mommy Dearest": all your time focused on your kids
- "Trophy Spouse": all your time trying to please your spouse
- "American Idol": all your time building your personal brand

Which Addict Are You?

- "The Sex Addict": all your time spent thinking about sex
- "The Swindler": all your time spent manipulating others
- "The Conspirator": all your time on conspiracy theories
- "The Overachiever": all your time climbing everything
- "The Emperor": all your time chasing worldly prosperity

"Choose Your Poison"

The more socially acceptable addictions (eg: wealth, idolatry, etc.) are in many ways worse addictions than many others. Institutionalized addictions are given power to judge and scorn the "uglier" ones. In some ways the prior is more difficult to overcome than the latter.

What's Missing

Humans were born to connect with their Creator. Everything else is a subsequent development. Without that baseline connection, man searches to exhaustion, changing addictions like seasons.

Mt 25:37 [Message]

"Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me-you did it to me.'"

Balance Statement

Grace and love have two sides, both an encouraging (do what's right!) side and a discouraging (don't do what's wrong!) side. So addicts shall not be enabled, either - that's not love, that's a perversion.

What Can We Give?

- Of Person (who we are): time, talent, energy, attention
- Of Possession (things we own): money, property, stuff

Living For Others

People who struggle with addiction are in a position of weakness. Should we exacerbate their sense of loneliness by scorning them and pushing them off to the side?...or should we find ways to reconnect with them? (re: Gal 6:1-3)

Connection Implies Sanctification

Sanctification is placing something where SOMETHING is missing in the life of a believer. That "something" is a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Connection Implies Sanctification

Disconnected people are not sanctified. Christ, Himself, was very social (doesn't imply extroversion), even though His "circle of friends" was relatively small, given the size of His ministry. (Jn 17:19)

Connection Implies Sanctification

Connect with Jesus. Pray with Him. Open your Bible and drink Him, consume Him (Jn 6:53-58). Watch as the Word washes over you and delivers you from your recurring lusts.

Perseverance of the Saints

"From faith to faith" expresses that true faith is not a single event, but a way of life - it endures. In this sense, the "righteousness from God" that "is revealed" is unique to true believers only, for they "live by faith"!