

What Does the Bible Say About... ?

“Addiction and Shame”

1st Corinthians 6:9-11

September 27, 2020 - Bob Hightchew

Introduction:

- **Romans 3:23**
- **Romans 3:12**
- **Mark 10:18**
- **James 4:12**
- **Psalm 103:8-12**
- We all own our failure ... We all have sinned ... We all have issues we are dealing with ... That begs the question ... Shouldn't it be easy to find grace, love and mercy in the church?
- **James 4:12**
- **Isaiah 5:20-22**
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- **Proverbs 14:12**
- One rock artist said ... “Anything that will get my mind off the misery we call life ... no matter what it is ... I will take it.”
- Boris Becker ... was at the very top of the tennis world -- yet he was on the brink of suicide ... He said, "I had won Wimbledon twice before ... once as the youngest player ... I was rich ... I had all the material possessions I needed ... It's the old song of movie stars ... and pop stars who commit suicide ... They have everything, and yet they are so unhappy ... I had no inner peace ... I was a puppet on a string."
- **Jack Higgins** ... author of very successful novels and The Eagle Has Landed ... was asked what he would like to have known as a boy. His answer ... "That when you get to the top ... there's nothing there."
- **Romans 12:1-2**
- **1st John 2:15-17**

1. How does Addiction Happen?

- a. Edger Allan Poe ... Life and Poems of Edger Allan Poe ... “I have absolutely no pleasure in the stimulants in which I sometimes so madly indulge ... It has not been in the pursuit of pleasure that I have periled life and reputation and reason ... it has been the desperate attempt to escape from torturing memories ... from a sense of insupportable loneliness ... and a dread of some strange, impending doom.”
- b. Phillip Cushman ... “American culture has shaped a self that experiences a significant absence of community ... tradition and shared meaning ... It experiences these social absences as a lack of personal conviction and worth ... and it embodies the absences as a chronic undifferentiated emotional hunger.... The empty self seeks the experience of being continually filled up by consuming goods ... calories ... experiences ... politicians ... romantic partners ... and empathetic therapists in an attempt to combat the growing alienation and fragmentation of its era.... One of the wealthiest nations on earth ... is also one of the emptiest.”
- c. We cannot buy into the cultural lies –

- i. Lie #1 - Drug and alcohol abuse aren't that big of a problem in our culture:
- ii. Lies #2 – Legal drugs and alcohol are primarily used for recreational purposes ...
Even if you abuse them, you are only hurting yourself.

2. Where Does the Shame Come In?

- a. Shame comes in when a person realizes all that has been damaged due to whatever addiction they happen to have ... What we need to understand is this ... Addiction is NOT solely a moral issue.
- b. **1st Corinthians 10:13**

3. How Can I Help?

- a. We need to refer them to someone who can help them professionally.
- b. BUT ... we can remain their loving brother or sister who will not judge them because we fully understand that we are all sinners in desperate need of Jesus Christ.
- c. **1st Corinthians 6:19-20**
- d. **John 3:16-17**
- e. Also consider the following things:
 - i. Understand substance abuse is a real threat to your kids:
 - ii. Model Self-Control:
 - iii. Eat together as a family:
 - iv. Teach your kids to say NO ... and WHY to say no:
 - v. Have your kids invite their friends to visit at your house:
 - vi. Confront your child's problem quickly:
- f. **Romans 12:1-2**

