

A Holy Addiction

Text: 1 Corinthians 16:15

Intro:

- ▶ The word "addicted" is found only once in the scriptures.
- ▶ We here a lot today of the word addict.
 - ⊙ When we think of the word addict it is usually in a bad light.
 - ⊙ We hear of those being addicted to certain things and the programs designed to help addicts deal with there sin.
- ▶ A person can be addicted to:
 - ⊙ Alcohol and other Drugs
 - ⊙ Prescriptions & Nonprescription Drugs
 - ⊙ Nicotine
 - ⊙ Television
 - ⊙ Food
 - ⊙ Sex
 - ⊙ Pokemon
 - ⊙ Work
 - ⊙ Relationships - "Fatal Attraction"
 - ⊙ Computer Use
 - ⊙ Gambling
 - ⊙ Exercise
 - ⊙ Entertainment and Sports Personalities
 - ⊙ Religion

- ▶ According to Tabor's Medical Dictionary, addiction means to have a "physical dependence on a substance, with use of increasing amounts.
- ▶ Mosby's medical dictionary defines it as: "compulsive, uncontrollable dependence on a substance or habit or practice to such a degree that ceasing causes severe emotional, and mental reactions.
- ▶ Usually an addiction is an unholy practice and one that should never be a part of a Christian's life.
- ▶ However, we see in our verse a group of folks that had a holy addiction.
- ▶ They were junkies for Jesus.
- ▶ Paul identifies them as the household of Stephanas.
 - ◎ They were the first-fruits of Achaia, the first converts to Christianity in that region of Greece in which Corinth was.
 - ◎ In fact, Paul the Apostle had baptized them - **See 1 Cor. 1:16.**
 - ◎ They had addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints, to serve the saints.
 - ◎ They had disposed and devoted themselves to serve the saints and service the saints.
 - ◎ They supplied their wants and helped and assisted them upon all occasions, both in their temporal and spiritual needs.
- ▶ This morning we want to ask the question how does one become addicted to the ministry of the saints or a junkie for Jesus.

I. **Experience**

- ▶ In order to become addicted to anything one must have an experience with it.
- ▶ For example to become a drunk or be addicted to booze you must have first began with a drink of booze.
- ▶ In order to become addicted to the ministry of the saints then you first must of had a salvation experience.
 - ⊙ Trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour.
 - ⊙ Been born again.
 - ⊙ Believed that Christ died for your sins, was buried and rose again the third day.
- ▶ If you have not had a salvation experience then you cannot become addicted to the ministry of the saints.
 - ⊙ No matter how hard you try you will not be able to:
 - **"...abound in love one toward another..." 1 Thess. 3:12**
 - **"Let brotherly love continue." Hebrews 13:1**
 - **"...by love serve one another." Gal. 5:13**
 - **"...be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,..." Eph. 4:32**
 - **"...forbearing one another in love;" Eph. 4:2**
- ▶ That is why many who profess to be Christians can never be addicted to the ministry of the saints because they have never had a salvation experience.

II. Evolve

- ▶ Once one has experienced the substance or begun a pattern of behavior, it evolves or grows into a greater desire over time.
- ▶ If a person has had a salvation experience, trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, their desire for the things of the Lord will grow or evolve over time.
- ▶ For example a heroin addict desire for heroin increases over time not decreases.
- ▶ The word of God tells us concerning the Christian's desire and growth of the things of the Lord.

© **"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...." 2 Pe. 3:18**

© **"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;" Col. 1:10**

© **"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:" 1 Pe. 2:2**

© **"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;" 2 Thess. 1:3**

- ▶ The Christian's desire should be to grow in grace, to grow in the knowledge of our Lord and of God, and to grow in faith.
- ▶ The Christian should desire to learn each day something from God's Word.

III. Expense

- ▶ The addict will spare no expense to support his habit.
- ▶ He will do whatever it takes to support his habit.
 - ◎ Even to the point of robbery and murder.
- ▶ A person addicted to the ministry of saints will spare no expense in serving and servicing the saints of God.
 - ◎ His concern is for meeting the needs of others.
- ▶ The word of God has a lot to say about giving to the saints of God:
 - ◎ **"...let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." Eph. 4:28**
 - ◎ **"...remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35**
 - ◎ **"Distributing to the necessity of saints..." Romans 12:13**
 - ◎ **"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10**
 - ◎ **"That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;" 1 Timothy 6:18**
- ▶ The Christian should spare no expense in ministering to the saints of God.
- ▶ We have so many Christians today who spare no expense when comes to going to the hair salon, buying lottery tickets, supporting their favorite radio preacher, supporting their favorite contemporary Christian Music recording artist - Amen!!!
- ▶ Buying toys for the kids and for themselves - Amen!!!

- ▶ Most Christians can't get their car in their garage because it is full of stuff that they don't need - Say Amen!!!

IV. **Engrossed**

- ▶ Once a person has experience, evolved and spared no expense on their addiction they finally become engrossed.
- ▶ They become oblivious to the world around them.
 - ◎ They are totally absorbed by the substance or behavior that they are addicted to.
 - o They would have to be to get to the point to be able to resort to stealing or murder to feed their habit.
 - o They would have to be to get to the point where they don't care that they are hurting themselves and their families.
- ▶ The difference between an unholy addiction and a holy addiction is that a holy addiction will not harm anyone and will glorify the Lord.
- ▶ The word of God tells about glorifying God through the holy addiction of ministering to the saints -
 - ◎ **"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Mt. 5:16**
 - ◎ **"Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation." 1 Pe. 2:12**
- ▶ The Christian should be become engrossed in ministering to the saints.

Conclusion:

- ▶ Christian you need to quit that habit whatever it maybe:
- ▶ Not doing something can be an addiction -
 - ◎ For example:
 - o Not praying!
 - o Not paying your tithes and offerings!
 - o Not staying in the Book!
- ▶ Why not become addicted like household of Stephanas.
 - ◎ Notice the household of Stephanas, not just one person.
 - ◎ You see if daddy is addicted to the ministry of the saints the whole family will be too!!!
 - ◎ My dear friend won't you be a junkie for Jesus and give up all that other junk that got you weighed down!!!