

Compassionate Care for Addicts/Substance Abuse

A. **“Hi, I’m Charles and I have family and friends who are substance abusers.”**

1. Addiction has some effect on the lives of most everyone in the country.
2. 1 Corinthians 10:13 has direct application to this problem.
3. Addiction does not discriminate on the basis of religion.
4. Higher education does not prevent it.
5. Church membership where a Matthew 18 form of church discipline is practiced does not guarantee sobriety.
6. Salvation and progressive sanctification offer a solution and hope.

B. **Generalizations on the state of the art in the treatment of drug addiction.**

1. Current medical treatment for in patients and out patients is limited in its ability to effectively change lives.
2. Medical model care which has been “Christianized” is no less or more effective than secular counterparts.
3. Underlying problem is not substance abuse.
4. Christians who receive care in a standard behavioral medicine model are no more likely to succeed or fail than non-Christians.
5. Christians who are substance abusers can go to Biblical counselors and fail to achieve sobriety.
6. Christians who pursue progressive sanctification can and do change every day.

C. **Self-reformation never works.**

1. Matthew 12:40 - the difference between sick and dead.
2. Pharisees are a good example of changing a life with cognitive/behavioral modification. It produces liars and hypocrites not permanent Biblical change.

3. Cognitive/behavioral rule keeping may appear to produce change for limited periods of time but offer no “cure.”
4. Addictive behavior may simply move to a different “house.”
5. Christians can fail in growth and change.
6. Christians with life dominating sins change.

D. What do I do?

1. Week One: Hope, communication.
2. Resign from ministering.
3. Empty the house.
4. One doctor, pharmacy, letters of apology.
5. Church discipline, fellowship.
6. Medical care.
7. Homework, small group, a friend to watch.

E. Week Two: Salvation? Matthew 7

1. Progressive sanctification, Ephesians.
2. I want to change... and a friend.
3. Motive to change: 2 Corinthians 5: 9, Matthew 22:37, John 14:21, John 13:17.
4. Who makes it?
5. Scripture memorization.

F. Week Three: Greed!

1. Galatians 5:20, Revelation 9:21, 18:23, 21:8, 22:15.
2. Instead of greed, John 13 was dirty feet!
3. Christian service.

G. Week Four: How about my pain?

1. Anger: six steps.
2. Forgiveness.
3. Purpose of pain and suffering. (Romans 8:28-29)
4. Who suffered more? (Philippians 2:1-8)

H. Week Five: Christian Life and Growth

1. Role of husband, wife, parenting.
2. Budget, time diary.

I. Week Six: Pride and the opinions of others. 1 Peter 5:5-7

- Week Seven: Worry. (Philippians 4:4-9)
- Week Eight: Decisions. (Romans 12:1-2)
- Week Nine: Continued accountability with friend, small group, church. Continue to introduce new resources.

J. The “cure” is paradoxical.

1. Jeremiah 21:1
2. Addiction is not a medical problem at the outset.
3. Addicts treated by medical means are limited to the “cure” and “relapse” rates of the treatment.
4. Progressive Sanctification powered by the Holy Spirit brings permanent lasting change. (Zechariah 4:6)
5. What is the difference?



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