

FAMILY ISSUES IN ADDICTION: HELPING FAMILY MEMBERS

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Introduction

Luke 15:32 *'It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'*"

Cuckoo Bird

I. The Addict's View of Others

A. Idolaters _____ their desires are met.

1. Using others to please self

- a. View people as objects to help them get what they want.
- b. One-sided relationship: you give, I take.
- c. Loved ones are not pleasing the addict unless they help them get that pleasure.

2. Loved one is viewed either as an _____ or _____.

B. Relating to an Idolater/Addict

1. Obstacle: _____ the idolater from getting what he wants.

2. Enabler: _____ the idolater whatever he wants.¹

a. Motivations:

- Enables to get the _____ of an addict
- Enables in order to be " _____ "
- Result is the relationship is destructive to the addict and to the loved one.
- An *enabler* could also be called an _____ when they are knowingly helping the addict in wrongdoing.
- Family often accepts deception instead of confronting it. Eph. 5:11 *Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.*

3. Appendix A in *Divine Intervention* lists ways family/friends enable the addict.

¹ Shaw, Mark. *Divine Intervention: Hope and Help for Families of Addicts*, Focus Publishing, Bemidji, MN.

4. Confess your own heart issues like men-pleasing and seeking to control rather than to trust because those may be idols in your heart. Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

II. Teach the Family How to Respond to Idolatry

A. Enabling is _____. Eph. 5:11 above that commands to openly rebuke sinful heart attitudes and outward behaviors.

1. Help them to identify how they can respond differently (put on).

2. Learning to respond as Christ would is the _____ of every Christian.

B. Confront by speaking the truth in love. It is a call to repentance. Prepare family to be ready for these possible responses:

1. _____ in that they repent.

2 Tim. 2:24-26 *The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, ²⁵ with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*

2. _____ when called to repentance and they reject.

Mark 10:17-22 *As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments, 'DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, Do not defraud, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.'" ²⁰ And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up." ²¹ Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." ²² But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.*

3. Either response is the _____ of God and the responsibility of the addict. You are simply a messenger of the Gospel, not the author of that message!

III. One Choice, Many Consequences, Thousands Impacted

A. Question #1 Who was involved in the first recorded episode of "drunkenness" in the Bible?

ANSWER is in Genesis 9:20-22: "_____ began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹ He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent. ²² And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside."

B. Who was involved in the second recorded episode of “drunkenness” in the Bible?

ANSWER #2 is in Genesis 19:30-33, 36-38: “Now _____ went up out of Zoar and lived in the hills with his two daughters, for he was afraid to live in Zoar. So he lived in a cave with his two daughters.³¹ And the firstborn said to the younger, “Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the manner of all the earth.³² Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father.”...

C. Both Noah and Lot Mentioned.....As “_____”

Genesis 6:9: “Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

2 Peter 2:7-8: “and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard)...

One Choice – A Moment in Time

Noah’s choice to get drunk led to a CURSE upon his GRANDSON (Canaan)

Lot’s daughters’ choice to get him drunk 2x led to a CURSE upon his GRANDSONs (Moabites & Ammonites)

The Canaanites, Moabites, & Ammonites plagued the Israelites for hundreds of years!

There are far-reaching _____ to sin.

IV. Biblical Counsel from Luke 15:11-32

And he said, “There was a man who had two sons.¹² And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them.

A. _____ his Father was dead v. 12

1. Viewed his father as an object and an obstacle blocking him from his desires. (I call it an “entitlement” mentality in my other books.)²
2. Often at this point, it is best just to let the addict go, or if needed, drive them out. **Prov. 22:10**
Drive out the scoffer, and contention will go out, even strife and dishonor will cease.

¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

B. He spent his entire inheritance on _____ and luxurious pleasures. v.13 (I call it a “consumer” mentality.)

¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.

C. A _____ arose in the land meaning no one had anything extra to give a beggar. v. 14 (Quite likely, you could imagine a “victim” mentality here though the text does not explicitly tell us.)

D. He *began to be in need* means he became an impoverished beggar. He had nothing left because he spent it on luxurious things.

¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

E. He attached himself to someone he could use for financial gain, and stuck with him as long as possible. v. 15-16 (Again, it is implied that he is thinking like a “victim” because he is not working or taking responsibility for his spending and poor choices.)

F. He began to be in real, physical need (hunger) and no one gave him anything! No enablers! v.16 ¹⁶ *And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.*

G. _____ the Father: **Ephesians 5:11** *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.*

1. The Father let the son go, and he did so lovingly.
 - a. Notice that he was looking for his son’s return in verse 20.
 - b. Letting the son go does not mean one quits praying!
 - i. Turn to God in prayer and Bible study and trust God

² See *Addiction-Proof Parenting, Cross Talking, and/or Relapse: Biblical Prevention Strategies* published by Focus Publishing, author is Mark E. Shaw.

- ii. Look out to what God might be teaching you. The only real failure in this situation would be failing to please God.
- iii. Pray in order to keep your heart from hardening against your loved one.
- c. Parents may give clothing or groceries but cash is not recommended. Do not co-sign your name to anything. Take your name off their bank accounts, etc. Stop providing for a rebel.
- d. Change the locks.
- e. Do not chase after them, text them every day, etc. Allow them to feel the weight of their sin and decisions.

V. A Repentant Addict

¹⁷ "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."'" ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'" ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

- A. He came to his senses as he looked down at where he was at (in a pig pen, starving) and looked up _____ his Father's love. v.17
- B. God's grace, mercy, and love is what you rely upon, not your own abilities to convince or cajole the addict.
- C. There is a distinct difference when someone is repentant:
 - 1. Three fruit of repentance I look for are Responsibility, Gratitude, and Submission.
 - a. When someone is repentant, they acknowledge their sin as being toward God and mankind. (Responsibility)
 - b. They display less selfishness, pride, anger, and depression. (Gratitude)
 - c. They will do anything to demonstrate their new attitude because they are not seeking anything but forgiveness. (Submission)
 - d. Don't cheapen repentance to be an "I'm sorry."

2. "I want my car back..." is not repentance but a demand and shows a lack of gratitude along with an "entitlement" mentality.
 - a. "I'm not worthy..." is what a repentant person says.
 - b. "Make me like a hired servant" is what a repentant person says.

VI. Guard Your Heart from Bitterness (v. 25-32)

²⁵ "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹ And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

- A. Though he lived near his Father, he was relationally _____ and far away. V. 25-26
- B. Family may become hardened and harsh. *Luke 15:30 But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!*
- C. The older brother is angry that a sinner repented. v. 27-28
 1. He takes out his anger on his Father. v. 29-30
 2. He justifies himself and has a self-righteous attitude.
 3. He is a sinner by omission (not commission like his brother).
 4. Quite likely, the older brother killed his Father with a piece of wood just as Jesus was crucified.³

VII. No Specific Timeline For Repentance

- A. While you wait, pray, read your Bible, and trust God for the outcome.

³ MacArthur, John. *The Prodigal Son: The Inside Story of a Father, His Sons, and a Shocking Murder*, Thomas Nelson Inc., 2010.

- B. Recognize that only God can change someone's heart desires. Only God can grant repentance. *"Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?"* Romans 2:4
- C. The addict will probably need to face the devastating _____ of their sin to come to repentance. Consequences alone do not change the heart. There is a sin that leads to death (1 John 5:16).
- D. Family feels _____ in two different extremes:
1. If the addict dies alone in his sin, the family member says, "I didn't do enough."
 2. If the addict dies in the home of an enabling family member, family says, "I did too much."
 3. Guilty feelings may occur in either of these situations so it's a no-win situation for family.
 4. The goal is to know one is doing God's will and their best to trust Him so that a family member's conscience is clear before the Lord.

VIII. Conclusion

Family members must act in _____ regardless of their decision to either cast the scoffer out OR continue trying to evangelize/disciple the addict.

Rom. 15:13 *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."*

Recommended Resources:

- *When Good Kids Make Bad Decisions* by Elyse Fitzpatrick and Jim Newheiser
- *Age of Opportunity* by Paul David Tripp
- *Divine Intervention: Hope and Help for Families of Addicts* by Mark Shaw