

INTRODUCTION

A. SEE CLEARLY (Mt.7:4,5; Lk.6:41,42)

B. ADDICTION: SIN OR SICKNESS?

I. THE NATURAL MAN IS DEAD IN SIN

A. SIN

1. natural (born vs. created; Ps.51:5; Eph.2:1f vs. Gen.1:26f,31; see Rom.5:12)
2. actual (Eph.2:2,3; Rom.3:9-18,23)
3. progressive (Rom.1:18-32; Heb.3:13,15; see 2Sam.11,12)

B. DEATH

1. wages of sin (Rom.6:23; see Gen.2:17; 3:24)
2. physical helplessness (see Ps.28:1; 30:9)
3. spiritual helplessness (Eph.2:1,5; 12; Rom.5:6; 7:24)

C. GRACE

1. need for outside help is absolute (Eph.2:1-5; Rom.5:6)
2. divine intervention: "But God..." (Eph.2:4f; Rom.5:6,8; Jn.8:34-36)
3. faith and faithfulness must result (Eph.2:5-10)

II. THE ADDICT IS DEAD IN SIN

A. INTOXICATION IS SIN (i.e., drunk, high; 1Cor.5:11; 6:10; Gal.5:21; yet Prov.31:4f)

1. natural capacity and inclination (Eph.2:1f; Rom.7:23; 8:5-8)
2. particular deeds (Gal.5:21; Rom.13:13)
3. progressive effects (see Rom.1:18-32; 13:13; Heb.3:13)

B. ADDICTION IS DEATH

1. wages of intoxication (see Rom.6:23)
2. physical, mental & emotional helplessness (i.e., dependence; see Prov.23:35)
3. spiritual helplessness (see Jer.17:9; 13:23; Mk.5:5; 7:21,22; Rom.7:23,24)

C. OUTSIDE INTERVENTION IS THE ONLY WAY OUT

1. need for outside help is virtually absolute (see Eph.2:1f)
2. love must intervene (see Eph.2:4,5)
3. faith and faithfulness must result (see Eph.2:5-10)

III. WHAT SHALL WE DO?

A. EXAMINE YOURSELVES FOR ANYTHING THAT CONTROLS YOU OTHER THAN THE HOLY SPIRIT (Gen.1:26; 1Cor.6:9-13; Rom.6:14; 7:21-25; Phil.3:19)

B. PRESENT THE GOSPEL: HELP AND HOPE IN CHRIST (Lk.17:3,4; 24:47; Jn.8:34,36; Acts 2:38; see 1Cor.6:9-13; Rom.6:12-23)

C. ADMONISH THE SINNER: SPEAK TO THEM (Mt.18:15f; Lk.17:3; Rom.15:14; Gal.6:1f; 2Th.3:15; see 1Cor.6:9-11)

D. COMPASSION THE ADDICT: SPEAK TO GOD (Mt.9:18; 15:22; see Rom.7:21-25; 8:1f; Gen.14:12-16)

E. BEWARE OF A CLEAN, EMPTY HOUSE! (Lk.11:24-26; see Eph.5:18; Mt.5:6)