



ADDICTION

and the Church

ADDICTION AWARENESS

The Churches Impact



THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH:

The challenge when the path of addiction is chosen by those we love.



**For God so loved the World
That He gave his only begotten Son,
That whosoever believes
Should not perish
But have everlasting life.**

**For God did not send His Son
Into the world to condemn the world,
But through Him might be saved.**

John 3:16-17 KJV



UNDERSTANDING ADDICTION



Understanding Addiction

Addiction is: A desire to use a substance or a behavior, to the extent, instead of a person controlling the addiction: the addiction controls the person....



Understanding Addiction (Terms)

Physical (*Biological Reaction*)

The substance or behavior that gives the abilities to destroy the body and mind.

The substance can shut the body and mind down.



Understanding Addiction (Terms)

Chemical replacement: is the replacement of natural brain or body substances that are artificially or behaviorally replaced by stopping the normal functions mentally or physically causing imbalances in the brain or body organs.



Understanding Addiction (Terms)

The physical marks of addiction.

Disease concept: is understanding it is more than a choice once made: It is the destructive pattern developed in the brain. Plus, the damage of how substances changes the chemical makeup of how thinking and cravings works. The cycle of addiction begins the disease it creates, and the lack of impulse control presents the pattern and damage.



Understanding Addiction (Terms)

Psychological: Cravings association and benefits

- **Hallucinations** and feelings eutopia
- **Mania:** The full rush of adrenalin into pure energy or emotions.
- **Depression:** As good as it feels leads to the worst it feels called depressed displaying in sadness, isolation and struggles with emotional regulation.



Understanding Addiction (Terms)

- **Anxiety:**

Fear and over worry leading to paranoia from irrational thinking often associated with present or past trauma.

- **Psychosis:**

a. Seeing or hearing objects/persons or noises that no one else can see or hear, (Hallucinations auditory or visionary).

b. Delusional thinking: permission to self-harm or to harm others without reasonable cause. Symptoms may become life long without intervention.



Understanding Addiction (Terms)

- **Criminal / Addictive thinking:** while under the influence or seeking substances.
- **Gate way drugs** leading to self-destructive behavior, leading to I don't care....
- **Addiction Insanity:** Doing the same thing over and over expecting different results.



Understanding Addiction (Terms)

- **Criminal thinking:** you can cheat the legal system and laws that are not made for you.
- **Entitlement thinking:** addiction can't happen to me, I am different.



Understanding Addiction (Terms)

Common types of addiction (substance, behavioral, etc.) To be in control but lose control of self identity.

- * Substance USE
- * Alcohol USE
- * Behavioral: Gambling, Crime: Double lives
- * Sex: hormonal intensity, Porn trade, Predators in the Sex trade Adult and underaged.
- * Work/Money The delusional thinking of profit from Drug trade. The Profit margin



THE SPIRITUAL ASPECT



The Spiritual Aspect

- Error in thinking drugs and alcohol can replace relationship with God.
- Spiritual reaction: the confusion with emotional reaction
- Fight / flight with God as scripture teaches.
- Substances can become barriers of having Spiritual life.
- Using people instead of being used by GOD
- Sinful euphoria: thinking we are on the same level as God



The Spiritual Aspect

- Social aspects: Using friends, social position in association of criminals.
- Parties, clubs, bars, concerts, replace association of church and healthy relationships.
- Fulfilling gifts of leadership in social hierarchy. A new language and lifestyle
- Music: Art forms: Social media: Association of gangster



The Spiritual Aspect of Family

Family Tradition

Generational

Family pride

Reunions in prison

Co-dependency in addicted in family

A family member role



RECOVERY



Recovery: Stages of Change

Ambivalence to change: It is their problem not ours

Pre-Preparation to change: Setting the stage understating addiction

Preparation: Accepting the process of change, we have responsibility in accepting change in the process in ourselves and others.

Action: Placing priorities for recovery: establishing support

Maintenance: If these priorities become a part of the ministry of Church.



The Spiritual Aspect

THE COMMUNITY VS THE COST OF A SOUL

Nation/ Society/Community/ State: On Thin ICE

- Community Cost
- Family Cost
- Human Cost (*physical and death*)
- Spiritual Cost



Recovery Interventions

- Individual principals (*Rehabilitation*) Self
- Family principals (*family education*)
- Church is families
- Church/spiritual principals:
 - Groups in Church
 - Celebrate Recovery
 - Recovery groups
- Institutional
 - Residential
 - Hospitals
 - Prisons



Prevention: The Bridge from Recovery to Church

Intervention from God/Son/Holy Spirit:

- Intervention of becoming a survivor instead of a victim
- Understanding true recovery to stop cross addiction
- No excuses just positive results from lessons of life
- Living in the here and now, not in past mistakes
- Learning to knowing self in relationship to God.

