

In order to truly have a stronger relationship with God, we must work on our problem with sin...

Sin has addictive qualities and works to try to destroy our relationship with the Lord.

The Sin Addiction:
Searching for True Repentance
and Recovery

Addiction

What does it mean to be addicted to something?

Addiction is a strong urge or craving to repeat a behavior regardless of its consequences.

Types of Addiction

- Overeating
- Gambling
- Sex
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Internet
- Pornography
- Television
- Video Games

The person who is addicted has lost control of their behavior...



A LOOK AT DRUG ADDICTION...

- The addicted person repeats the behavior regardless of consequences
- The drug is in control (enslaved by the drug)
- Starts out as fun, but eventually the drug begins to destroy the addicts' life
- It becomes very difficult to break the "hold" that the drug has on the addict
- The urge for the drug is so strong that the addict will betray loved ones to get it
- Some addicts are able to quit using for awhile, but most of them eventually repeat the behavior again...regardless of the consequences

A LOOK AT SIN...

Disobedience to God's Law

- Sinners repeat the behavior regardless of consequences
- Sin is in control (enslaved by sin)
- Starts out as fun, but eventually sin begins to destroy the sinners' life
- It becomes very difficult to break the "hold" that sin has on the sinner
- The urge for the sin is so strong that the sinner will betray loved ones and even God for it
- Some sinners are able to quit sinning for awhile, but most of them eventually repeat the behavior again...regardless of the consequences

Addiction to drugs and the constant urge and failure to stop sinning have very similar qualities...

Is it possible to be addicted to SIN?

Repentance

Acknowledging wrongdoing. A decision to turn away from sin and turn to God for forgiveness.

Have you truly repented you ask for forgiveness from God and then run right back to the same sin?

Why can't we just leave sin alone?

SIN IS POWERFUL

Genesis 3: 1-13

Describe some of the qualities of sin that you see in the story of Adam, Eve and the Serpent

Adam, Eve and The Serpent

Characteristics of Sin

- Sin is desirable
- Sin is pleasing to the eye
- Sin fulfills a need
- Sin is attractive
- Sin is deceptive
- Sin is dangerous
- Sin separates us from God *Isaiah 59:2*
- Sin is deadly

Adam and Eve have been made aware of the terrible consequences of disobeying God, yet...they sin anyway...

Sounds a lot like us doesn't it?
Why do we sin when we know there are bad consequences when we disobey God?

Galatians 5: 19-21

How Sin Attacks Us

- James 1: 13-15
 - Desire leads to Sin
 - Sin grows...Sin grows...Sin grows out of control
 - Full-Grown, Out of control sin then leads to **Death.**

Things we tell ourselves...

- “I am still in control, I can stop this sin if I really try.”
- “God knows my heart. He knows that I am just flesh.”
- “The Devil made me do it.”
- “I’ll get it together and repent soon.”
- “This is not hurting anybody.”
- “I’ll stop this sin before it does me any harm.”
- “God will forgive me.”

Paul’s Honesty

- Romans 7: 15-25
 - What is Paul going through?
 - Can you relate to his struggle with sin? How?
 - Paul is honest about his struggle with sin. Paul admits that there is “evil” in his life.
- II Corinthians 12: 7-10
 - Paul pleaded for the thorn to be removed. Many bible scholars believe the thorn represents temptation. What does the Lord’s response tell us about sin?
 - What message is being sent to us concerning our weaknesses?

Why do we have to deal with sin? Because sin has a purpose...

- Our battle against sin causes us to rely on God. Only through our relationship with God can we defeat sin.
- Sin creates opportunities for God to see our allegiance to Him. We are forced to choose between God and sin. God is pleased when we choose Him.
- Sin separates the children of God from the children of the Devil and allows God to judge us. Those who are faithful to God will receive heaven as their reward.
- The Devil uses sin to try to destroy our lives. In the end, the Lord will be victorious. But we must endure the test to the end.

Have you truly repented if you go back to the same sin?

- Luke 17:1-4
 - What does God's standard for repentance in this scripture tell us?
 - *There will be times when we fall short and sin against God's law...*
- Hebrews 10:26
 - Don't take advantage of grace. It is there when you need it, but it is not to be misused. God does expect us to live a Godly life.

Successful strategies in managing sin...

How can the Christian more effectively manage and avoid sin?
What has worked for you?

Some things we can do...

- Admit that you have a problem and that you need God's help to deal with it.
- Eliminate the clutter (bad people, bad influences in your life). Clean house.
- Develop closer relationships with other Christians.
- Stay in the Word. Come to Church.
- FLEE from situations that might cause us to sin.
- Pray and ask God for the strength to resist sin.
- If you haven't tried it yet...DON'T! You just might like it...and if you like it, you could get addicted to it.

The Ultimate Goal is to
OVERCOME SIN

Revelation 2:7