

I'VE GOT AN ADDICTION

INCREASINGLY MORE AND MORE, PEOPLE ARE FINDING THAT THEY'RE ADDICTED TO SOMETHING OR OTHER - WITH FOOD, SEX, DRUGS AND EMOTIONS COVERING MOST OF THEM (PSYCHOLOGISTS LIST HUNDREDS)

BASICALLY IT'S SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN'T CONTROL BECAUSE IT CONTROLS YOU.

PEOPLE NEARLY GO INSANE TRYING TO GET RID OF THEIR ADDICTIONS ONLY TO FIND THAT THEY'VE REPLACED IT WITH ANOTHER. LIKE A WHEEL THAT GOES ROUND AND ROUND, ADDICTIONS ARE A VISCIOUS CIRCLE THAT ARE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO GET RID OF. MOST PEOPLE START READING THE "NEW IDEA" FOR ANSWERS, THEN BUY POPULAR BOOKS AND THEN GO TO PSYCHIATRISTS ONLY TO FIND THAT THEY CAN'T HELP EITHER.

IN THIS PAPER WE'LL:

1. FIND OUT WHAT ADDICTIONS REALLY ARE
2. WHERE THEY COME FROM
3. HOW TO GET RID OF THEM FOREVER

"AND YE ARE COMPLETE IN HIM... "
(Colossians 2:10)

"MONKEY ON THE BACK"

Talk to anyone who knows about addictions, who had one, who knows someone that's got one, and truly "Monkey on the back" is a good description. No matter what, a monkey on the back will not let go.

ADDICTED PEOPLE START LOSING FRIENDS Why does this happen? Very simple. As addicted people are obsessed about themselves and constantly thinking how they can satisfy their craving, friendships wane as the focus goes on the addicted person. Friends simply get crowded out of the picture and in the end the competition is too great.

ADDICTED PEOPLE LOSE MOST OF THEIR MONEY

Addictions cost money. Addictions are like a forest fire that gets out of control. Addicts start borrowing from friends, neighbors or relatives and soon the cycle gets out of hand and very often the money doesn't get paid back.

ADDICTED PEOPLE LEAD DOUBLE LIVES

There is the public face and then there is the face that no-one sees. Addicts feel that they have two people living in them. Each one telling the other what to do.

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ADDICTED PEOPLE FEEL WRETCHED ABOUT THEMSELVES

Because addicts have no control over themselves they are slaves to their craving/s and there are few slaves who enjoy their position of being dominated.

ADDICTED PEOPLE ARE LIARS

Many addicts will deny this one but this only goes to show that it is true. They even lie that they're liars.

Over the years as the addiction has grown, addicts have "compensated" for their condition. In the early stages they say, "Well, it helps me get through the day. After all, I have a responsible position and I do work hard."

This soon changes to fit into some medical condition they saw on TV or read in a book or heard about.

Then they're under doctors orders for the condition. Pretty soon they're off to some specialist who finds that it's psychological and that's a relief for them because then there's an actual label which can be applied and the condition becomes legitimate. **ALL ADDICTIONS STARTED OUT WITH LIES.** Homosexuals are chronic and habitual liars - always covering up, being secretive and making excuses about "something in the 'genes' so that it really isn't their fault at all and they were made like it".

ADDICTED PEOPLE ARE ETERNAL OPTIMISTS

This is nice way of saying "They live in fairyland". They are always hopeful of a cure but deep down secretly don't want to find one otherwise they'd be cured and then probably wouldn't have the support and the attention of those around them.

ADDICTED PEOPLE COMPENSATE IN OTHER AREAS

Addicts start making excuses both to themselves and others and start making allowances. Responsibilities to family go by the wayside and many addicts become 'invalided'. This word comes from the word in-valid.

ADDICTIONS ARE IDOLS IN PEOPLE'S LIVES How is this possible? The idol in your life is what you think about most - food, sex, drugs.

ADDICTED PEOPLE PLAY VICTIM OR PERSECUTOR

Addicts want attention one way or another - sympathy or domination is all the same.

OBVIOUS & NOT SO OBVIOUS ADDICTIONS You may have been reading this brochure and feeling sympathy for the type of person mentioned here - perhaps even feeling a touch sanctimonious or just thankful that you don't suffer the way these "poor wretches" are. Many people have addictions and you wouldn't even know - they keep it locked down real tight. These addictions live in a few rooms of their mind that no-one is allowed to enter, not even themselves in some cases.

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WHERE DO ADDICTIONS COME FROM?

The Bible says: "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:" (Mark 7:21-22)

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

(Jer 17:9)

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings" (Galatians 5:19-21a)

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." (Isaiah 64:6)

"There is not a just man upon earth that doeth good, and sinneth not "(Eccles. 7:20) "Every man at his best state is altogether vanity."

(Psalm 39:5)

DON'T BE SURPRISED AS TO WHERE ADDICTIONS COME FROM? WE DON'T GET ADDICTIONS, WE ARE ADDICTIONS !!!!

EVERY PERSON ALIVE IS AN ADDICT - CHRISTIAN OR NON-CHRISTIAN

If you are a Christian, have you died and gone to heaven yet? Have you been given a glorified body without sin yet? If not you are living in a body of flesh and although you may be saved, your flesh is warring against the Holy Spirit in you.

Are you doing everything that the Lord wants you to. Do you pray enough, read your Bible enough, preach enough, witness enough (ALL THESE ARE ADDICTIONS for not doing what we should be doing).

Do you think about and dwell in God's word enough? Do you get caught up in life's affairs often and temporarily forget about God? Are you, sometimes reluctant to share your faith?

IF SO, YOU HAVE AN ADDICTION IN GODS' EYES and WE ARE ALL ADDICTS. We all seek to do our own pleasure and will ALL of the time. Because some of us are saved we tend to think that we are immune from the flesh, but this is called THE ADDICTION OF DECEPTION.

CHRISTIANS FALL INTO THREE CATEGORIES

- 1. MANY HAVE OBVIOUS ADDICTIONS**
- 2. MANY HAVE ADDICTIONS THAT ARE NOT SO OBVIOUS AND CAN HIDE**
- 3. THE REST HAVE ADDICTIONS THAT THEY'RE NOT EVEN AWARE OF.**

As we stand before the Judgement Seat of Christ (for those who are saved) and we stand before His purity and holiness, we shall see what sinful, addicted liars we were... & we were saved by His grace.

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

Many people have run off to get `delivered' and that doesn't work; others have tried little tricks out of the New Idea and that doesn't work; others have tried to forget about it and that doesn't work; others try praying harder and that doesn't work; others try fasting and that doesn't work; others read the Bible more and that doesn't work; others get counseling and that doesn't work ARE YOU GETTING THE PICTURE - ANYTHING THAT WE TRY WILL NOT WORK!

The Lord God left his people in the wilderness to humble them (Deuteronomy 8:2). God allows addictions to humble us and to show that we have a body of flesh. He wants us to go to Him broken and totally devoid of any plan of rescue for ourselves - just like when you got saved. You called out to Him and said: "God save me I'm a sinner, I deserve your wrath in hell forever. I can't save myself. I believe Jesus died for my sins. I need Jesus as my Saviour. Thank you for saving me."

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It's no different now! Everyday must be the same. Your sanctification is just your justification in action.

EVERYDAY MUST BE THE SAME AS WHEN YOU FIRST GOT SAVED AND YOU CALLED OUT TO JESUS IN HELPLESSNESS TO BE SAVED. GOD DOESN'T GIVE OUT A LITTLE HEALING HERE, OR A LITTLE BLESSING THERE, OR A LITTLE DELIVERANCE HERE OR THERE ... HE ONLY GIVES JESUS. NOTHING ELSE WILL WORK! "FOR IN HIM DWELLETH ALL THE FULNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY. AND YE ARE COMPLETE IN HIM...

(Colossians 2:9-10a)

By Harley Hitchcock.