

Tragedy: Picking Up the Pieces of *Addiction*

When people hear the word “addiction,” they tend to think alcohol and drugs. But the reality is, almost all of us are addicted to something. Food. Co-dependent relationships. Spending. Collecting. Sex. Pornography. Nicotine. Stealing. Lying. Gambling. Screen technology. Video Games. And those just scratch the surface. While all addictions are crippling, some are more overtly damaging than others. The truth is, when addiction calls, lives are broken. This week, we take a look at our response when addiction visits our homes.

1 Corinthians 6:12–14, 19–20

1. _____ addicted to something.
2. You have the _____, but having the right doesn't make it “_____.”
3. Tough Love doesn't feel like _____ and it's _____ to live with because it doesn't feel right or good.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll examine myself and my personal addiction
- I'll look up and consider the first three steps of the 12 step program
- I'd like to attend Celebrate Recovery (let me know when it begins)

Additional Notes

- Get to a 12 step meeting. _____
- Get into counseling. _____
- Be supportive. _____
- Embrace your family. _____
- Engage the church. _____

Digging Deeper, Going Further

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Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:12–13, 19–20

Introduction: Arguably, addiction is one of the most prevalent tragedies to strike at the heart of the family. Not only is drug and alcohol addiction pervasive, the fact is that all of us have some sort of unhealthy attachments to something (or someone) that draws us in and creates dependence. We're not only "slaves to sin," we give ourselves as slaves to our addiction. As Jesus said, we cannot serve two masters – we will love one and hate the other.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 6:12–14. What addictions does Paul identify in this passage? What other addictions can you think of?
2. What does it mean to be "mastered" by something (or someone)?
3. Read 6:19–20. What do you think it means that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit?
4. Dr. Bill suggested that we are all addicted to something. If that's true, what might you be overly attached to?
5. Read Mark 10:17–23. This man was over-attached to his wealth; nevertheless, Jesus felt a deep love for him (*agape*). How did Jesus respond to the man's addiction and his ultimate choice? Do you think this was difficult for Jesus? Why do you think this?
6. Why do you think tough love is so difficult?
7. What would it look like to support someone who's addicted without supporting their addiction?

***Next Week: Picking Up the Pieces When Tragedy Strikes—Mental Illness
Who will you be inviting to worship with you this week?***