

FOCUS

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

FOR ALL RESOURCES AVAILABLE
AT THIS CONFERENCE VISIT:

SBCV.ORG/FOCUS



MINISTERING TO WOMEN IN ADDICTION: THE EPIDEMIC WITHIN THE PANDEMIC CASEY WEYMOUTH

TEACHING
NOTES

PURPOSE: TO EQUIP LEADERS TO MINISTER TO WOMEN WITH ADDICTIONS.

- » Alcohol/drugs
- » Sexual Addictions
- » Eating Disorders
- » Pornography
- » Gambling
- » Shopping/spending

1. RECOGNIZING THAT ADDICTION IS A SPIRITUAL PROBLEM.

The Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. (2 Cor. 3:17)

Addiction is a worship disorder-God calls addiction two names in the Bible:

1. **Idolatry** (the general term)—Webster defines an idol as a person or thing TOO much loved, admired, or honored
the addict serves the god of self
SELF-GRATIFICATION over God pleasing

2. **Drunkenness** (specific term)—Galatians 5:20 specifically names the works of the “flesh” vs. the fruits of the “spirit.”

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:16-21)

IF WE RECOGNIZE ADDICTION AS A SIN, WE CAN CERTAINLY RELATE AND UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE MORE EQUIPPED THAN WE MAY THINK.

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In order to overcome sin, the requirement is simple:

Confession, repentance & faith in Christ

We have all sinned & fallen short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

- » Recognizes their addiction is a sin problem.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

- » Confesses and repents of their sin problem.

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (Romans 10.9-10)

- » Confession and belief in Christ

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:1-2)

- » We have to CHOOSE everyday to live a sacrificial life...
denying the flesh and its lusts and picking up our cross to follow Christ!

2. SETTING HEALTHY BOUNDARIES FOR YOURSELF, FOR THE PERSON BATTLING ADDICTION, FOR THEIR FAMILY, AND FOR THE CHURCH.

This is a hard balance between **GRIT** & **GRACE**.

BOLDNESS & **LOVE**

TRUTH & **GRACE**

BOUNDARIES & **EXPECTATIONS**

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Ask the hard questions:

1. Are they willing to do whatever GOD requires to overcome this addiction?

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh and strength to your bones. (Proverbs 3:5-8)

If the answer is NOT an emphatic YES...they're NOT ready!

STOP, STEP BACK, PRAY

2. Are you doing more work to keep them clean than they are?

If the answer is YES, you're enabling!

STOP! STEP BACK! PRAY!

Enabler—generally describes someone whose behavior allows a loved one to continue self-destructive patterns of behavior. (Intentionally or Unintentionally)

REMEMBER THAT THE LORD SAVES, NOT US! SOMETIMES, THE PAIN HAS NOT GOTTEN GREAT ENOUGH FOR THE ADDICT TO SURRENDER.

PAIN IS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE. WHEN THE PAIN GETS GREAT ENOUGH, WE SEEK GOD!

GOD IS NEAR TO THE BROKENHEARTED AND SAVES THOSE THAT ARE CRUSHED IN SPIRIT!

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. (James 5:16)

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3. BE PREPARED—HAVE A LIST OF REPUTABLE FAITH BASED RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR PEOPLE SEEKING HELP!

Remember that with addiction, there are a host of other sins that stem from it...sin begets more sin.

Resources should include state and local:

- » Faith based recovery programs
- » Medical detoxification facilities
- » Transitional housing
- » Celebrate Recovery programs
- » A list of individuals within your church that may be in recovery and willing to mentor
- » Domestic Violence Shelters
- » Homeless Shelters
- » Feeding programs
- » Social Services
- » Christian Counselors, marriage & family counseling
- » Medical Assistance
- » Community food banks

DON'T GIVE UP HOPE!

WHERE THERE IS LIFE, THERE IS HOPE!

THERE ARE NO LOST CAUSES WITH CHRIST!

KEEP PRAYING, KEEP LOVING, KEEP REACHING OUT!

***THIS TYPE OF MINISTRY CAN FEEL DEFEATING AND REQUIRES INTENSE
DISCIPLESHIP...AS PEOPLE ARE PRONE TO FALLING BACK INTO SIN...***

WE MUST KEEP POINTING THEM TO CHRIST!

KEEP SHARING THE GOSPEL!

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FAITH-BASED RECOVERY PROGRAMS IN VIRGINIA

The Fix Ministry

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4465 Mt. Olive Cohoke Road
King William, VA 23086

804.921.9447
804.921.9245
<https://thefixministry.org/>

Teen Challenge—Shenandoah

tc_reception@svtc.info

P.O. Box 375
Basye, VA 22310

540.213.0571

Regenesis

Director-Pastor Greg McReynolds
info@regensislife.org

P.O. Box 3718
Chester, VA 23831

804.451.4481

New Life for Youth

2501 Turner Rd.
North Chesterfield, VA 23224

804.276.6059