

are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." Also Christians who choose to follow after the ways of the world will not inherit the kingdom of God. **I Corinthians 6:9-11:** *"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."* You see, as Christians we cannot serve two masters as seen in Matt. 6:24. Make your choices wisely for all of us will stand before God to be judged by Him. For our own actions that we do here will follow us to the judgment day. (II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-15) Think about it while there is still time.



By Bill Davis

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Faithful Sayings

Olsen Park Church of Christ

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Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

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Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
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Is Sin Addictive?

A while back a friend of mine asked me if I thought that sin could be addictive to a person who chooses to live a sinful life. I thought about that questions and told him, "Yes, sin could be addictive to a person's life." For something to be addictive means that a person has an uncontrollable need of a certain item or action. If we look at the history of mankind we find that mankind as a whole will always look for ways to get into trouble. Some examples of how people will get into trouble today are pornography, alcohol, drugs and gambling. People will get into trouble by doing certain activities of sin only to have a longing for more and more of sin; thus being addicted to their own evil behavior. These are just a few examples that we face in this country and yes, even in the church today. Many that I know today will go to a church and profess to be Christians, but when one listens to their conversations you will get a good idea concerning what they find to be pleasure in life. Some will hit the bottle during their days off. Others will go to Las Vegas to be involved in gambling, drinking and the pretty women that they meet there. when they get back home, they often brag about how they had a great time playing in sin. One

thing we all need to remember is that sin is not free. It will always cost you something in your life - your marriage, your job, your health or your life. Most of all sin will cost you your soul (**Matt. 16:26**). As always, when I write an article I will refer to the Bible regarding what God's word has to say about how we are to live our lives. In Proverbs **20:1**, the Bible says that *"Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler and whoever is led astray by it is not wise."* Also in **Isaiah 5:11** it says, *"Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may follow intoxicating drink; who continue until night, till wine inflames them!"* In **Galatians 5:19-21**, drunkenness (vs. 21) is found listed among the works of the flesh. Is alcohol an addictive sin? Yes it is. Just look around you at all those who took that one drink and years later they are still trying to quit. Each year a typical young person in the United States is inundated with more than 1,000 commercials for beer and wine and several thousand fictional drinking incidents on television. Over 15 million Americans are dependent on alcohol, 500,000 are between the ages of 9 and 12. Is sin addictive? That one drink went a long way.

Another good example in our society of sin being addictive is that of pornography, which is nothing but lust. In **Matthew 5:28** it says, *"But I say unto you that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her in his heart."* There are those who will say that these are only pictures, right? However, we are what we think and what we look at. You may say they are just pictures, then why do we have so many di-

vorces and crimes against women and children in this country? Think about it, **James 1:14** says, *"but every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived it bringeth forth death."* Does this sound like our society today, after all these are only pictures, no harm just looking? Is that what God says?

Another good example of sin being addictive is that of gambling. Have you ever noticed that those who gamble never seem to have enough money? They're always going for the big one such as a lottery ticket or a trip to Las Vegas. **Ecclesiastes 5:10** says, *"He who love silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity."* Mankind always seems to want more than he has or needs. Here Solomon observed that those who love money and seek it obsessively will never find the happiness that it seems to promise. In **Proverbs 13:11** it says that *"Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, but he who gathers by labor will increase."* **Matthew 6:24** reminds us that *"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."* Jesus is saying here that we can have only one master. Today we live in a materialistic, money driven society in which many people will serve money. People will spend all their time working, collecting and storing all of their wealth only to die and leave it behind for somebody else to enjoy for themselves. Just think, what ever you store up, you will spend much of your time and energy

thinking about. As Christians, can we honestly say that God and not my money is my master? Far too many people today will lose all they have worked for due to their desire to make money the easy way, gambling. It's only a fool's dream.

Last but not the least of sins that can be addictive is the use of drugs. In one research study approximately 1 in 5 people between the ages of 16 and 59 said that they had taken drugs. The number of persons with drug addiction problems increased from 14.5 million in 2000 to 16.6 million in 2001. Drug addiction in this country is found in every walk of life. Even among Christians are those who have tried drugs and have become addicted or unable to give the drugs up without professional help. In **I Corinthians 6:12** Paul is telling the Corinthians that *"All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."* Apparently the church had been quoting and misapplying the very words "everything is permissible for me." Some of the Christians in Corinth were excusing their sins by saying that Christ had taken away all their sins and so they had complete freedom to live as they pleased. Does this sound like us today in the church? Some will seek to excuse a sin by any means possible. The word "drugs" is not found in the Bible. Just because the word is not in the Bible does not give those a loop hole to live in sin and get

away with it. The Greek word, "pharmakia" from which we get the words in English, "pharmacy" and "pharmaceutical" is found in Galatians 5:20, Revelation 9:21, Revelation 18:23 and Revelation 21:8 (pharmakeus). In Galatians 5:20 in the King James this word is also rendered "witchcraft", as it is mentioned among the works of the flesh. Sorcery as we find it translated in English had an underlying meaning of the use of drugs. While a more extensive study can be done in this area, let's top and look at the principles which are applied to the use of drugs. Drugs can alter the mind and can be addictive, bringing a person under their control. Remember the scripture we looked at earlier, "Everything is permissible for me but I will not be mastered by anything." When one gets addicted to drugs, the drugs master that person. Your self control and will are controlled by the drugs. Using drugs will not bring you closer to God but will lead you away from Him.

In everything stated in this article, it always started with "one"; one drink, one look, one lottery ticket and one smoke. You see, that's the way sin is, little bit by little bit. As Christians, the thought of using our time, our money and our lives as an instrument of evil ought to scare the devil out of us. **I Corinthians 6:19-20** tells us plainly that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, *"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you*