
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Are you enslaved to sin?**

Many people enslave themselves to creditors because they have not controlled their spending. But there is another way people enslave themselves. Many people enslave themselves to sinful practices – which they know are wrong – but they can't seem to stop either.

For example: Many men know that pornography is wrong, but they can't seem to stop themselves from seeking porn. When their families are in bed sleeping some men slip away and search for porn sites on the internet. Others are enslaved to phone sex – amassing enormous telephone charges speaking about sex with a total stranger. Others go all the way and hire prostitutes.

Some men are entrapped. They know this is wrong because God has ordained that the only lawful sex is between a husband and his own wife.

1 Corinthians 7:1-5

- 1 Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.
- 2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.
- 3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.
- 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.
- 5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

So the only lawful sex is between a man and his wife. But many men find themselves enslaved to pornography and other forms of illicit sex. They know it's wrong and they hate themselves after they do it. They might even make a vow to themselves that they will never do it again, but before long, they find themselves giving in to the temptation one more time. There seems to be no hope.

Jesus said this:

John 8:31-32

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

The truth, Jesus said, can make us free. Free from what? Truth can make us free from sin – sin like addiction to pornography or addiction to drugs or addiction to alcohol.

- Sin promises fun and excitement, but brings shame and disappointment.
- Sin promises love and true intimacy, but actually brings loneliness and broken homes.
- Sin promises satisfaction, but only creates frustration as a person wants more and more of his sin.
- Sin promises happiness, but brings about disease, worries, and selfish behavior.

If you're listening to this message and have an addiction, let me offer these basic words of help:

FIRST: Admit that you have a problem. It is impossible to overcome an addiction until you admit you are addicted. The Bible says:

1 John 1:8-9

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

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

So the first step in becoming freed from the slavery of addiction is to confess you have the problem.

SECOND: Cut off all things that pertain to your sin. Don't just put your drugs, alcohol or tobacco in a locked cabinet – throw them away completely. Don't just hide your pornography – burn it. Burn the bridges behind you. Get rid of your computer and TV if you have to. Jesus said it like this:

Matthew 5:29-30

29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

You would be better off never watching another movie for the rest of your life than to be lost in hell because of lust.

THIRD: Make yourself accountable. Find a close friend who is willing to help you with your addiction. Let this friend know where you are at all times and what you're doing. The Bible says,

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

9 Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor.

10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up.

When you feel tempted to return to your sin, call this friend and have him meet you and be with you until the crisis is over.

FOURTH: Pray for strength. There's strength in praying to God. Prayer reminds us that God is watching us. Prayer reminds us of our duties to God. God blesses those who pray to Him.

Matthew 7:7-8

7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

It's impossible to sincerely pray to God while looking at pornography. It's impossible to pour a drink of alcohol and pray to God at the same time. It's impossible to ingest drugs and be sincerely praying to God for help at the very same time.

These are just some of the things we can do which will truly help us overcome enslavement to addictions. Those who want can become free from sin.

If you have never obeyed the gospel, you can receive forgiveness for all your past sins by taking four simple steps. The Bible teaches you must:

- Believe in Jesus (Jn 3:16).
- Repent (Lk 13:3).
- Confess (Rom 10:10).
- Be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

If we can help you overcome sin in your life, please call on us and, together, let us fight the good fight of faith and lay hold of eternal life (1 Tim 6:12).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.