



What happened? How do people get addicted?

ADDICTION

frequently, repeatedly, compulsively, obsessively and habitually attaching one's self to anything or anyone other than God for the purpose of seeking pleasure, relief, happiness, security and/or contentment.

The result of addiction: freedom is diminished and focus on God eclipsed
action is essential to addiction

Romans 7:14-25: The Apostle Paul Struggled with Sin

BASICS of Romans

Who is the person described? Paul gives an intense personal testimony of his struggle with sin in his present experiences as a maturing Christian that is applicable to the experience of all genuine Christians

7:14: We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.

7:15 & 19: ¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do..... ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

7:16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.

7:17-18 ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. (see Galatians 5:17)

7:20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

7:21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

7:22-23 ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.

7:24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?

7:25a Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!
(see Romans 8:18 & 1 Corinthians 15:56-57)

7:25b.... So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

A Summary: "it sums up with clear-sighted honesty, the tension, with all its real anguish and also all its real hopefulness, in which the Christian never ceases to be involved so long as he is living this present life." C.E.B.Cranfield

Application: How people get addicted

(remember the unholy trinity: The Flesh, The World & The Devil)

Stage 1: : Learning: we find ways to relieve our pain and experience pleasure

Example: Aubrey, The Food Addict

Stage 2: Habit Forming: The conditioned pattern has been established for relief and the inner self yearns for the behavior or object of attachment and it becomes a repeated pattern or habit. Example: Brett, the Alcoholic

Stage 3: Struggle with Dependence (the war within): the habit is entrenched as a means of relief, that when you don't have the object or not doing the behavior, your inner self sends out warning signals constantly. If you don't give in there is distress and anxiety. Example: Blaine, the workaholic

Stage 4: Stronghold of Addiction: The habit is so strong the person does not have the ability nor will power in and of themselves to stop it any longer. The battle is over. Any attempt to block the behavior has adverse consequences that cannot be tolerated—the inner rebel wins because the attachment is deep!

Example: Dana, Addicted to Worry

GRACE is our only hope for effectively dealing with ADDICTION

Grace: the dynamic ever flowing unexpected love and goodness of God to people without condition nor merit. Grace is the active expression of God's unconditional and undeserved love demonstrated by and appropriated via faith in Jesus Christ: His death and resurrection.