



Saturday, November 17th, 9am-Noon

Schedule:

9:00 - 9:50am — "A Biblical View of Addictions"

Break

10:00 - 10:50am — "Opioid Addictions"

Break

11:00 - 12:00pm — "Addressing Addictions"

A Biblical View of Addictions

Zachary D. Rollison, MS

Disease? Choice? Sin?

Addiction, especially in later stages, has major physical and psychological components. But it shares the same root as most human problems: sin.

A Disorder of Worship: Addiction, be it to heroin or compliments, porn or shopping, points to something besides God being on the throne of our hearts. Common idols/causes: Pleasure, avoiding pain, forgetting trouble, self-medicating, control, fear, social acceptance, coping with stress.

Voluntary Slavery: Like sin, addiction has elements of both choice and bondage. It begins with decisions to honor our chosen idol, but eventually the temporary pleasures turn to desperate needs and enslavement as our bodies and minds respond to the choices of our hearts.

The Heart: Behavior change is not sufficient. Heart change is needed. This can only happen when Christ is on the throne. Otherwise we create "dry drunks," bitter individuals who no longer partake of the substance/behavior but whom are still enslaved at their cores.

Approach: Grace and Truth, or, Speaking the Truth with Love. Mix empathy with reality; mix compassion with confrontation. Prov. 27:6; John 1:14; Eph. 4:14-16

Resources:

Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave – Edward T. Welch At the Altar of Sexual Idolatry – Steve Gallagher Idols of the Heart – Elyse Fitzpatrick Counterfeit Gods – Tim Keller The Heart of Addiction – Mark Shaw Notes

Opioid Addictions

Fred Jacoby, MA

Opioid Statistics:

Types of Opioids:

Opioid Use & the Brain: The brain is hijacked by the opioid and creates a "new normal". When the "normal" isn't right, a quest is set in motion to get back to the "new normal."

Opiate Withdrawal Timeline: The first 72 hours are the worst, which peak around 72-78 hours. Some effects may last years.

Opioid Abuse Treatment: Medication & Secular Treatment. Other Opioid drugs are used to help stop using opioid drugs.

Biblical Opioid Treatment:

Spirit: Salvation belongs to our God. Truth sets us free!

Body: Physical training

Heart: Emotions & Desires need to be addressed

Mind: Thought Patterns need to be based on Truth

God's Path to Freedom: Acknowledgement of sin & Repentance. Acknowledging and bending the knee to Christ. Honesty. Go all out nuclear war against sin and follow Him. Repeat when necessary.

Notes

Disabling the Enabling Mindset

Zachary D. Rollison, MS

Redefining Love: Love is valuing someone so highly that you are willing to sacrifice for their good. John 3:16

Notes

Redefining Good: Good, at its simplest, is that which God wants for us.

Ask Yourself: Is this helping them stay in bondage? Is this helping them violate the law? Is this pushing them toward Christ or toward their idol?

Boundaries: One of the most important steps is learning to set healthy boundaries. Set rules and agree with spouse/family to adhere to them. Consistency is key.

No: Learn to use this word. A lot. Become comfortable with it. "No" may be the most positive thing you can give to an addict.

Seek Support: Family, friends, pastors, church family, counselors, groups: You are not alone. Don't isolate.

The Role of the Church

Fred Jacoby, MA

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The Role of the Church is to minister to the sick, even to those who are sick with addiction. The church can minister to both the addicts and to their families. Here are three categories of care churches can do.

Prevention:

Recovery:

Resource:

