

Biblical Answers to Life's Hard Questions: Addiction / Pornography

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – September 24, 2017

Romans 6:13-23

13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. 14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey — whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. 18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. 19 I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. 20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. 21 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We are either...

1. SLAVES TO SIN OR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Gal 5:16-18

16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

Our choice produces either...

2. LIFE OR DEATH

Deut 30:19

... I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.

Rom 6:16, 20-21

16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey — whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? 20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. 21 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!

Victory over addiction comes by...

3. JESUS CHRIST SETTING US FREE

Jesus said He had been sent to...“set the captives free”. (Luke 4:18)

John 8:34-36

34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. 35 Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Rom 6:17-18, 22-23

17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin... 18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. 22 ... now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

HOW? • SURRENDER IN WEAKNESS!

2 Cor 12:8-9

8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take [my thorn] away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."