

# Proclaiming Liberty to the Captives



## “Ministry to the Addicted in the Body of Christ”

*“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,  
Because He has anointed Me  
To preach the gospel to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;  
Luke 4:18 (NKJV)*

### Introduction

In much the same way as terrorism threatens our national security; addiction is threatening to destroy the moral fiber of our American culture. If we are going to face this significant threat successfully as the body of Christ, we must first understand biblically the nature of the enemy we are up against.

We must also be willing as the people of God to assume the responsibility to proclaim liberty to the captives in the form of the gospel message of Jesus Christ. To hover in fear in the face of this ominous darkness that threatens to enslave our loved ones and in the process destroy our families our churches and even our nation is cowardly and unacceptable to we who have received this “treasure in earthen vessels.”

How then as people of God do we assume our battle position and stand together as a ministry and a church against an enemy who walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour? First and foremost we must understand the nature of addiction and the mindset of those who are being held captive by it. This seminar is designed to provide that insight.

## 1. Understanding Addiction Biblically

### A. Disease versus Sin Model of Addiction

1. God does not keep one out of heaven for **physical illness**. (1 Corinthians 6:9, 10)
2. Physical diagnosis removes **responsibility** and **hope**. (John 5:6)
3. Spiritual diagnosis allows us to utilize **biblical solutions**. (2Timothy 3:16, 17)

### B. Translating Secular Diagnosis into Biblical Terms

1. Addiction defined biblically is **idolatry**. (Isaiah 55:1,2)
2. Addiction defined biblically is also **spiritual adultery**. (Romans 7:4)
3. Depression defined biblically is an **absence** of **hope**. (Psalm 38:6 -11)
4. Co dependency defined biblically is the **fear** of **man**. (Hebrews 13:6)
5. Other diagnosis can be **translated biblically** by using "A Christian Guide to Psychological Terms. (ISBN: 1885904495)

### C. Christian Support versus Secular Support

1. A person's social institution will define their **identity**. (John 1:12)
2. A person's social institution will determine their **influential companions**. (Acts 2:42-44)
3. A person's social institution will **isolate** them from or **minister** to their family. (Acts 5:14)
4. A person's social institution will **testify** about who **we** really place our faith in. (Matthew 11:28-30)

## 2. Understanding the Heart of the Addicted

### A. Is there a need for treatment?

1. Can the person **stop using** long enough to receive counseling?
2. Are they a **danger** to others?
3. Do their **circumstances permit** them to be away for an extended period of time?

### B. They are Not different

1. They are not different although their sin has **disastrous** consequences. (Romans 3:20-23)
2. They are not different although they have gone to **extremes**. (John 8:3-10)
3. They are not different although they may not **look like** everyone else. (Matthew 9:11,12)

### **C. They are Not evil**

1. Our heart was also **treacherous**. (Jeremiah 17:9)
2. Often they are victims of deep **emotional trauma**. (1 Samuel 1:9,10)
3. They are **deceived** by the same devil that deceives us. (1 Peter 5:8)

### **D. They are Not unreachable**

1. Jesus never **rejected** anyone who was **receptive** to **redemption**. (Luke 19:5-10)
2. Often the most unlikely candidates in our eyes are the most **desired by God** (1 Timothy 1:15).
3. We must not deny the **Spirit** within us that causes us to take **sacrificial** risk. (Matthew 25:34 – 40)

## **3. Understanding the Cost to be Paid**

### **A. Strongholds must be pulled down.**

1. The **weapons** of our **warfare** are mighty. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
2. This is a **spiritual** battle that must ultimately be won by **Jesus Christ**.  
(1 Corinthians 15:56, 57)
3. Satan has blinded the minds of the **unbelievers** and we must not allow **ourselves** to be blinded as well. (2 Corinthians 4:3,4)

### **B. Sacrificial Love must be Exercised**

1. Love that is unwilling to **sacrifice** is not love at all. (1 Corinthians 13:4)
2. **Suffering** results in **salvation**. Jesus suffered for our salvation we must be willing to suffer for others. (1 Peter 3:18)
3. This is a supernatural endeavor that can only be accomplished by **Christ** through us. (Philippians 4:13)

### C. Our God Ordained Responsibility

1. As Shepherds we must exercise caution for the **spiritual, emotional, physical** and **financial** well being of those entrusted to our care. (Acts 20:28)
2. Acknowledge in our **hearts** and **publically** that this is ultimately Christ's ministry and can only be accomplished in the strength of **His Spirit.** (Matthew 28:19, 20)
3. Our responsibility is simply to **glorify God** with our lives. (1 Peter 4:16, 17)

### D. Understanding the mindset of the addict coming into the church

1. **Relationships** – Where do I belong? I need to belong to a whole new community. (Philippians 3:17-21)
2. **Rules** – How can I figure all of this out? Drawing guidelines, What are your exact expectations – accountability agreements – covenant (Deuteronomy 30:11-19)
3. **Regulation**- we are typically all or nothing people. Is there a place that we can be ourselves? How much is enough? Where do I stop? (1Corinthians 6:9-13)
4. **Reinforcements**- The policeman needs to be calling for backup **before** the crisis occurs
5. **Restoration** – I failed, so is it all over? Matthew 18:21, 22

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