

1. Coming Alongside of the Recovering Christian

2. Ministry to the addicted/sinner always is risky

3. But it is never optional!

4. Matthew Henry commenting on the parable of the good Samaritan

5. "But the true Christian has the law of love written in his heart. The Spirit of Christ dwells in him; Christ's image is renewed in his soul. The parable is a beautiful explanation of the law of loving our neighbor as ourselves, without regard to nation, party, or any other distinction. It also sets forth the kindness and love of God our Savior toward sinful, miserable men.

6. We were like this poor, distressed traveler. Satan, our enemy, has robbed us, and wounded us: such is the mischief sin has done us. The blessed Jesus had compassion on us. The believer considers that Jesus loved him, and gave his life for him, when an enemy and a rebel; and having shown him mercy, he bids him go and do likewise. It is the duty of us all, in our places, and according to our ability, to succor, help, and relieve all that are in distress and necessity."

6. Do you believe that God's grace is sufficient in your weakness?

• 2Co 12:8,9 *Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

7. Do I need to seek guidance from secular sources, or is the answer in God's Word?

• 2Ti 3:16,17 *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work."*

8. Do you believe that?

- *Tough Love is not a biblical concept.*
- *Boundaries is a secular teaching.*
- *Letting Go and letting God ignores personal responsibility.*
- *Forgiving yourself is judicially impossible.*
- *While anger may not be justified, in Christ it can be sanctified.*

9. What is your goal in this situation?

- *Get the addict clean?*
- *Get the addict connected to a church or program?*
- *Restore your family?*
- *Bring peace in your home?*

10. Our goals remain the same in all situations.

- *“Glorify God”*
 - *Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1Corinthians 10:31*
- *“Restore the Sinner”*
 - *...if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.....Galatians 6:1*

11. What is God trying to show you in all of this ?

- *Rom 8:28,29 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son,*

12. Who are you focusing on?

- *Your own capabilities*
- *the addict*
- *God*

13. Hebrews 12:1b,2

- *and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

14. Luke 15:11-24

A father had 2 sons.....

15. 5 Steps to Victory

- *1. We must let go.*
- *2. We can't interfere with the discipline of God.*
- *3. We must never give up.*
- *4. We must be ready to rejoice when it becomes evident that they are ready to make a life change.*
- *5. We need to realize that NOW is the time to offer the help we had to hold back earlier.*

16. John 3:16

- *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."*