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## Is “Addiction” Rooted in a Disease, Demon, or Decision?



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Mark Shaw

February 27, 2012

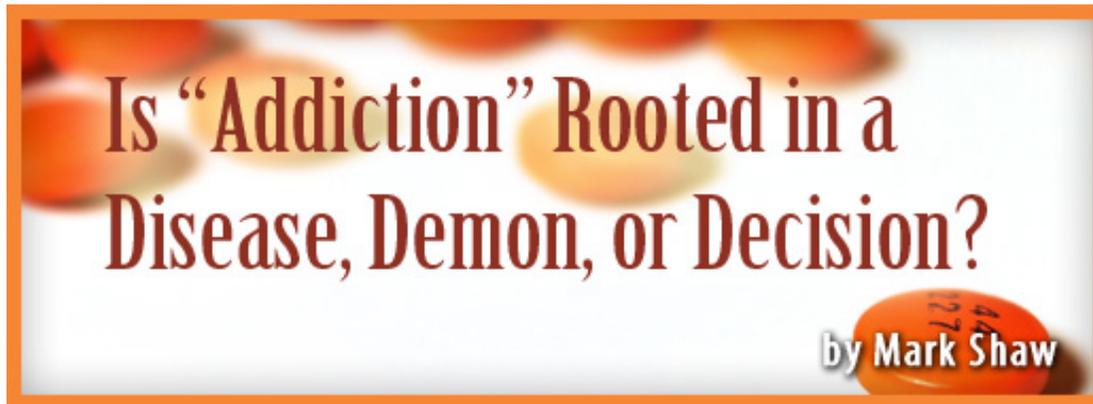
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118



1



With so much recent attention on addiction due to the death of Whitney Houston on February 11, 2012, one thing is clear: the world's message regarding addiction issues *opposes* biblical truth.

## Disease

The world proclaims the *theory* that addiction and alcoholism are diseases as total truth. Bill O'Reilly recently said on one of his shows that "conventional wisdom treats addiction as a disease," but to his credit, he had two "experts" debating the disease versus personal decision issue on "The O'Reilly Factor" on February 14, 2012.

The disease concept was popularized by Bill W. and Dr. Bob, the two men who founded Alcoholics Anonymous in the 1930's. They likened alcoholism to a disease after observing a trend of common "symptoms" for those who abused alcohol.

Today, it seems the entire world accepts the notion of addiction as a disease without question or thought. Jane Velez-Mitchell, a CNN reporter who is often vocal about

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her own struggles with addiction, uses personification regarding the disease of addiction, often referring to addiction as a living enemy who “attacks a person” from outside and overtakes them. She called it a “disease of amnesia” in reference to those who often forget what they were like when using or first abusing the drug of choice, thus causing the return to it.

This is the nature of this disease she describes. “Addiction is the only disease that presents itself as the solution,” she stated, as though it is alive like some animal or person waiting to present itself to unsuspecting victims, who don’t know they are about to be overtaken. Those who “suffer” with this dreaded disease are to be pitied therefore as victims in Velez-Mitchell’s view, because some people have the disease while others do not.

So commonly accepted as truth, is this theory of addiction as disease true? As believers, we know that friendship with the world is enmity with the Lord ([James 4:4](#)) and we are warned not to adopt ideas that do not line up with Christ in [Colossians 2:8](#): “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.” Therefore, our standard must be God’s Word and not our own thoughts even though “conventional wisdom” might say otherwise.

In His Word, God never calls this problem “alcoholism” or “addiction.” Instead, He calls it “drunkenness” and/or “idolatry” because to be drunk with wine is sin that will lead to destruction according to [Ephesians 5:18](#): “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.”

Debauchery means an “utterly ruined life” which is what our loving God warns us about as He speaks the truth in love to us so that we might not be enslaved by our own fleshly desires to be drunk with wine ([Gal. 5:16-21](#)). God holds us responsible for our decision to choose to sin and calls us to recognize the power of this problem to overwhelm, dominate, and ruin our lives. The solution is learning to live in a close relationship with Christ yielding a Spirit-controlled life rather than a pleasure-driven, escape-seeking, self-serving lifestyle of drug abuse, alcohol overuse, or utilizing any other pleasure to excess ([Eph 4:17-24](#))



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Other pleasure to excess (Eph. 5:17-21).

## Demon

Interestingly, on the other end of the spectrum, some Christians and even secularists think of addiction as purely a demonic problem. When Josh Hamilton, an All-star caliber baseball player who professes faith in Christ, recently “relapsed” by drinking alcohol in a Dallas-area bar, one reporter stated: “Those are some pretty strong demons he’s fighting and he’ll likely be very upfront for the strength and support he’s seeking as he continues to battle them.”<sup>[1]</sup>

While closer to the truth, viewing addiction purely as a spiritual problem that requires a daily battle against demonic forces has the same problematic result of the diseasing theory: a “victim mentality.” Both of these errors (diseasing and demonizing addiction) place the person in the category of somehow not being responsible for what has resulted in their lives. God holds everyone responsible for willfully choosing to take their pleasure or drug of choice in excess.

## Decision

Biblically, addiction is a spiritual problem, but the problem must first be re-labeled as sin in order for the Bible to make sense and for the real remedy to be available. Blaming a theoretical disease or a demon for this idolatrous problem of the heart will fail to bring any confession of sin and repentance and renders the Bible useless in the so-called victim’s eyes. Blaming something other than self also points people away from Christ.

Why? Nowhere in the Word of God is there any mention of alcoholism! Blaming a disease or a demon not only removes responsibility but also hinders the solution from ever being talked about. If there is no sin, then there is no need for Christ who died to pay the penalty and punishment of that sin. Christ is the solution to their sin choice problem and His Spirit and Word are just two of the provisions God has given for them to be transformed. Calling sin ‘sin’ is calling the sinner to a decision to obey or disobey Christ.

What’s your choice?



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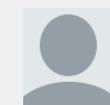
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#### Samuel Austin

What if my wife is always saying things like mmm look at

Language is vital. Without a proper diagnosis of the problem in biblical language, there seems to be no real solution. The world calls this sin a “progressive, chronic, and fatal disease” for which there is no hope of overcoming since one must learn to cope with the disease by attending self-help meetings in a hopelessly perpetual state of being commonly called “recovery.” Today is all that is promised for the Christian, but we must serve Him all the more strongly. A real thriving relationship with Jesus is unique and personal. You are hopeless without Christ Jesus, but you are hope-filled with Him as your eternal hope. You must struggle against temptations to sin daily, but you are promised strength for the battle in Christ alone ([Phil. 2:13](#)).

## Conclusion

There are some well-meaning but faulty thinking Christians and secularists who mislabel this problem either as (1) purely a physical disease or (2) purely a demonic spiritual malady requiring deliverance and a daily spiritual battle of rituals to keep the demons away. Instead of both of those extremes, the Bible quite simply declares sins of an addictive nature to be spiritual problems that enslave, dominate, and devastate those who choose to give in to their flesh by feeding idolatrous desires. Yes, even believers must learn to crucify the flesh ([Gal. 5:24](#)) and ask God to replace those desires with His Spirit and new desires to please Him alone ([2 Cor. 5:9](#)). Believers cannot continue to walk in the futility of their minds but must be renewed in the spirit of their minds by the power of Christ ([Eph. 4:17, 23](#); [Rom. 12:2](#)).

## Join the Conversation

How would you compare and contrast your biblical perspective on addiction to the model presented here?

Why is our language important in biblical counseling? Do you start with Scripture when thinking through issues like addiction in biblical counseling or do you start with conventional, cultural, and so-called worldly “wisdom” and ideas?

that? Am I responsible for her actions? I am a blood bought child of God but she is not and it seems as if she wants to be. I have witnessed...

[10 Ways that Satan Loves to Watch Marriages Fall Apart](#) · 16 hours ago



Meg

Hm... There are a lot of reasons to stop or continue

having children. Yes, God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and fill the Earth. Dude... The Earth is full! LOL What if two people love each other...

[15 Wisdom Principles on Deciding When to Stop Having Children](#) · 3 days ago



Brenda

More than a decade ago, the church I attended sent all their

ministry leaders to a NANC 2-day workshop to better prepare us to serve those under us in ministry. I attended, and was shocked by some...

[Have You Been Burned By A NANC Counselor?](#) · 4 days ago



Yulon Huddleston

I have been married to a man for two and a half years to

some one I have known for about 20 years. He always feels as if any thing I say or do I'm disrespecting him. Rather

[1] Source: [Yahoo Sports News](#).

This entry was posted in [Addictions](#), [Biblical Counseling](#), [People in Need of Care](#), [People Who Offer Care](#), [People Who Train Caregivers](#), [Sin](#) and tagged [Addiction](#), [Biblical Counseling](#), [Bill O'Reilly](#), [Disease](#), [Jane Velez-Mitchell](#), [Whitney Houston](#). [Bookmark the permalink](#).

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**Phil** · 3 years ago

As a person who was given over to drug addiction for many years and has found wholeheartedly agree with Mark. Although there is certainly a physiological component which must be addressed, the heart of the problem is spiritual. Detoxification can be a long and difficult process. Some of the affects of psychoactive substances on the central nervous system can be devastating. The greatest changes that needed to be made for me were spiritual.

I remember that every time I reached for my drug of choice I would be faced with a battle. Yes - sometimes the physical cravings made the decision a quick one. Other times there was a greater battle. However every time I failed I remember making a decision to be active although I did my best to quench his voice.

I guess maybe this is simplistic but the scripture gives us a command. "Do not quench the spirit." God doesn't command us to do things that he has not given us the power to do.

it's giving a suggestion...

[10 Ways that Satan Loves to Watch Marriages Fall Apart](#) · 5 days ago



**fee**

This is nonsensical, I appreciate aspects of it and each point is a proactive step any addict needs to incorporate into his life. But you do any points you have a disservice by discounting the...

[5 Mindsets of "Addictive" Thinking](#) · 6 days ago

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As a health care professional my journey has taken me from the Disease (Medical/Spiritual model (12 step programs) to the truth. The truth is I am a sinner who served me well at first. But like any Idol they turned on me and I found that I was in voluntary slavery. I chose to put myself there. No one at any time forced me to break this type of bond. I experienced true freedom when I climbed off the throne.

[see more](#)

11  |  · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) >



**Fjbucci** · 3 years ago

Having been a drug enslaved rebel for 7 years in the 70s I have compassion on those who are. Before I was regenerated by God's Spirit I went to the best secular "Addiction Education" where they put the responsibility for my behavior, to my circumstances in life that were "causing" my addiction. I was given medication to help me not be depressed, "their reason for my drug addiction". I was told I was going in that direction, rather than the direction of my personal responsibility. I was clinically observed by Psychiatric students at University Hospitals in Cleveland (Ohio) who were labeling me and creating me to be a victim of life. It was not until I was in the College of the Gospel of Christ forgiveness. This truth relieved me of the guilt of my sin and brought hope into my life. The hope of God's mercy and grace brought life to my guilty heart. Proverbs 13:12 describes. God used the consequences of my sin to bring me to repentance. I then went to a good local church where God used His "body" to discount my accountability to "transformation" rather than "rehabilitation". The living waters of the Word to my "inner-man" as 2 Corinthians 4:16 speaks of. It has been 34 years of freedom from the "Idolatry Of Drugs". We either serve The Creator or creation as Romans 1:25 describes. I am a victimized "addict", but am "washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ" 1 Corinthians 6:11. Living as a new creation in Christ, forgiven from my sin and enslavement. I share this to encourage some who labor hard to be "counselors" and "addiction" labors. Remember we can plant and water but it is God who produces the increase.

[see more](#)

8  |  · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) >



**Tuckergb2** → Fjbucci · 3 years ago

thanks for you comment. It encouraged me to continue to strive to seek

labels which are placed on others who struggle with addiction/sin.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**fredbucci** → Tuckergb2 · 3 years ago

My prayer is for God to open the eyes of your heart to the wonder of the inferior idols of enslavement. Thanks for your response.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Barjoy** · 3 years ago

I have been exposed to "spirituality classes" as part of a Veteran's Affairs Chapel. I forget the first time I entered a room filled with 45 "addicts" who were present for the spiritual nature of their disease". I surveyed the room noticing two veterans, each with a Bible. I stroked that fire with them (after class) and before me (after 8 weeks) there were 12 veterans with the same books. And the books were not. Their countenance spoke of a peace that passes understanding. I am

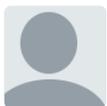
6 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Tuckergb2** → Barjoy · 3 years ago

Thank you for sharing your experience here. I truly believe that if we are use us in mighty ways like the men here in your story. Great books alone walk with the Lord and my own battle with addiction. I recommend "Get women or men as well.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**T Wright** · 3 years ago

I appreciate all the ways in which the secular and some Christian experts approach some, as demonic activity). Is alcoholism sin? If 'no,' then what is it? If it is sin, repent. Those who struggle need our prayers, support, patience, involvement, love and accountability, but the message we convey should never offer an excuse for what Jesus calls sin.

Is alcoholism any different from lust, hatred, gluttony, greed, gossip, etc.? It is a caught in. Funny though - we never label being caught in greed or hatred as a sin. Some sins, like alcohol or drug addiction labeled differently - as diseases? Sorry

powerless to defeat his addiction to the bottle he is therefore a diseased victim. Really? So which sins is he or any of us empowered to deal with on our own? We are all flesh - none of us have the power on our own to defeat any sin.

The demon thing is baffling, but offers another convenient excuse for sin. James man is capable of sinning without any help from demons.

Thanks Mark for your willingness to call addiction what it really is....

6 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**Jan** · 3 years ago

You have great insight Mark. Sometimes I think you are a lone voice crying out believe and accept the lie that they are "victims" of a disease or personal "demons" their "addictions". As Paul wrote to Timothy, "But understand this, that in the last difficulty, for people will be lovers of self . . . lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of godliness, but denying its power."

6 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**charlotte** · 3 years ago

As usual Mark Shaw comes to the core of the issue of "addiction" as disease, insufficiency of Christ, and therefore of His infallible, revealed Word, God calls us to the precepts He has so richly granted. It is no surprise that the world, with a language draw the unredeemed and "worldly" Christian into further deception. Is this not what Satan is the great deceiver, all he has are lies, and he certainly seeks to take as possibly can! But- we praise God for the indwelling Spirit of Truth for His enabling spiritual error/lies. His Word in conjunction with the Spirit of Truth is what God tells us we can speak to Him through prayer, and He us through His written Word. The Earth as fallen creatures our hearts are idol factories...and addiction..to use the world to build and sustain its own kingdom...instead of seeking to glorify the Creator and His Righteousness.I join countless others in thanking the One True God, and there is the God and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God without end, to Whom every knee must one day bow. Thank you men like Mark Shaw for such a time as this.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**Mcgaughyjada** · 3 years ago

This article is so true. The "disease" concept not only removes the choice of the excuse to continue on in it!!! The AA program teaches that relapse is a part of a person will make it back from the relapse? Viewing addiction from a Biblical perspective understand WHAT WAS WRONG WITH ME. Thank you Dr. Mark for helping me realize that I was idolatry in my life.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**Markshaw** → Mcgaughyjada · 3 years ago

You are so right! If we can correctly diagnose the problem, then we can see that the solution is always Christ! Praising the Lord that you can identify your own sin. Christ alone has forgiven you for all of those - past, present, and future!

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**Rick** · 3 years ago

What a blessing for a community of faith as well as a city to have someone like Mark. His material is a guideline for living a victorious life in the midst of the pitfalls of life! Thank you Mark, for allowing God to use you and following that call.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**Shari Hall** · 3 years ago

I believe this is far too simplistic. The issue of sin is never PURELY disease, but a mindset did not separate the body, mind and spirit. They saw the human as integrated. If you say that drunkenness is purely "decision" (in the mind) you are saying that you can drink reasonably. Alcohol is a chemical and has chemical components. It will affect all persons just like caffeine or various RX. If a person has issues with alcohol in their life, they should NOT try to get spiritual enough to handle it. That, for them, IS being spiritual. If you say that the demons don't have ANYTHING to do with our temptation to sin, you are missing the point. The Bible talks a lot about spiritual warfare.

What about generational sin? We do not come as a blank slate. We come with a pre-disposition to sin in certain ways. It is our task, as Christians, to overcome. The bible talks a LOT about sin in the FLESH (physical body). That means, if you can't chop it off. This means that "things" can cause you to sin. And when you discontinue

to be able to control it."

This kind of article is NOT helpful to those who struggle. I agree that those who with SIN. But without a balance of understanding where those temptations come from, it leaves a person not knowing how to fight those temptations.

Your article is a response to the gross over statement to the worlds understand

[see more](#)

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Markshaw** → Shari Hall · 3 years ago

Hi, Shari,

When a person drinks alcohol, what is the influencing factor BEFORE the choice to be a volitional choice at that point PRIOR to the first use. Demons not choice or even subsequent choices to drink/use afterwards: the person is accountable.

I think we must acknowledge the temptations to sin come from Satan, the Physical temptations to sin (i.e. it feels good to my body so I want more) No denying that and I agree with you.

This short blog was meant to address the INITIAL decision to use and eventually continue to use. There is no way around it - God holds us all responsible Jesus who FORGIVES us of our...demonic influences and diseases...not

I think there is a difference in being "simplistic" and taking a "simple" approach, not the former. I think Jesus' teachings were quite simple, too, and He was

I agree with your statement above about "chopping it off" (Matt. 5:27-30) and that is clearly a "decision" one makes so that they are not physically

[see more](#)

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Larry** → Markshaw · 23 days ago

I agree with Shari. I don't believe that you yourself have ever struggled

you can be so wielding with the sword of truth, they have written although it is sin as we as Christians all know or are discovering all go through and if you have never struggled you don't know. on it is dysfunctional and at its core it is a way that we all at first learn. we were not loved or accepted from ones who were suppose to or food, gambling or shopping or spending, they are all considered because you are being controlled by it. it is a selfish disease and feel like we don't have a choice but to medicate the pain. i believe still struggle with the same sin. our temptations are real in a mor of Romans if you need to understand how we will all struggle with say this mark shaw if you have struggled with addiction/sin and h other overlap of struggles with food or anger or some other outle then i believe you should get down on your knees and ask God for and compassion and mercy for others the way our Lord and Sav even the ones we continue to struggle with. Love you mark and i | Gods Glory Amen:)my name is Larry

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[see more](#)

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**Bob Kellemen** → [Shari Hall](#) · 3 years ago

Shari,

This is Bob Kellemen. I assume that Dr. Shaw will respond, also, when he has time.

I appreciate your perspective. And I know that Mark, with a deep and lengthy background in "addiction's counseling," has a very robust perspective on this. It is always difficult (impossible) to say everything in a 1,000-word blog post.

And I'm sure that within the biblical counseling world there would be a variety of ways we would express this perspective. I hear Dr. Shaw pulling the pendulum from the extreme of

"disease only."

Personally, from my study of Scripture and my work in this area, I would say it is more than "decision." However, I would not necessarily use "disease," "demon," and

[see more](#)

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**Jan** [→](#) Bob Kellemen · 3 years ago

Bob,

I like the clarity you bring to Shari's comment. The decision (or stresses, disappointments, and problems we all face every day.

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**addictions counselor Calgary** · 3 years ago

Hello..

There are many people who are addicted to many things in their life such as rap television, using mobile to much, etc., it is very important that one should get rid

1 [^](#) | [v](#) · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›



**Joseph** · a month ago

I see that the majority of people here have problems with drug addiction, but wh to this At 9 years old. I've prayed, confessed, and every time I think I have beate And I can't. No matter how much I read the bible, confess, and do everything I c avail. Please help.

[^](#) | [v](#) · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›



**fredbucci** [→](#) Joseph · a month ago

Pornography is similar to drug addiction in that it is false worship. Our h creation. Romans 1:25New American Standard Bible (NASB)

"25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and ser Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen." It is a Worship Disorder.

Addiction as a "Worship Disorder"According to clinical psychologist, Ed

because there are no other readily available explanations...If Scripture do  
An addiction is a worship disorder. Instead of worshiping the divine King  
temporarily satisfy physical desire."[1] We have a worship choice every  
serve ourselves=creation or God=walking in the Spirit. I was a severely  
Christ to forgive my sins He made me a new creation 2 Corinthians 5:17  
(NASB)17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, [a]he is a new creature; the o  
things have come". We have the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us a  
There is no pathology to a disease model for addiction. Every time you s  
to mortify it, Romans 8:13 and not let lust conceive.

James 1:14–15 gives us the natural progression of unrestrained lust: “E  
dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire ha  
sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

Read more: <http://www.gotquestions.org/ov...>

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**m8chael** · 2 months ago

I can appreciate everyone's input regarding addiction as sin Seriously struggling  
25 years after growing up knowing the truth of God's word, I was beat up by Chi  
sincerely wanted deliverance, yet found myself returning to a particular substan  
lived in shame for years because I was "weak," "selfish," or "sinful" until through  
a disease. I didnt run home to shoe my family. They were Right In their own mi  
change their thinking. It was for me. God allowed me to understand so I can forg  
and deliverence so many times and when I didn't get what others said they got,  
God to heal. That is the danger of narrow-minded thinking. I don't mean to be of  
that line myself and judged others in it. Today I see it differently. Reminds me of  
who's sin caused the blind man to be blind. Was it his or his parents. The ques  
their time that all physical defects were the result of their sin or when they were  
parents. Jesus said "NEITHER." It was so that God could be glorified in the heal  
or defects as sin when we don't struggle with it. I was surprised at so many tha  
supported this article. I see it clearly as a disease to which those who suffer bec  
choice to stop while they are in active use. I won't take the time to explain why. .  
brain becomes hijacked so to speak and the brain. Believes it has to use for sui  
addict from making right choices. The nature of it is progressive as it gets wors

up in the morning and aays, I think I will lose my job (lose kids, go to jail, etc) to

[see more](#)

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**Luther** · 4 months ago

Suffering from addiction to both drugs and alcohol, and believe me it is suffering the points made

well in the above argument, however the author seems to make this problem a enslaved by any substance is usually at first a voluntary decision to indulge. How the soul such as substance abuse. Truly I now understand what Paul is teaching do. It is no longer me but the sin which dwells in me." The initial bad choice is re indwelling that occurs in so many of us is nothing short of demonic possession solutions. I thank God that He has freely offered those solutions in His word. We

[^](#) | [v](#) · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›



**A Family Member** · 8 months ago

Disease. A family one. Diabetics eat sugar. Cancer patients smoke. Drinkers/d was interested in your article until the point of mentioning Bill O'Reilly...and you l role in recovery. ~Signed a Lifelong Member of a Family of Addicts and Alcoholi

[^](#) | [v](#) · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›



**liz** · 3 years ago

my bold comment, anything that we DECIDE TO PUT(in our mouth) OR INTAK DISEASE....people do not need AA meetings, but rather get into the word of God craving. I believe that the person can go directly to God or someone that OVER choice....THE SAME WITH THE SO-CALLED MENTAL illness, it can be from g repent for their own sins and the sins of their ancestors. There is no medicine f jealousy. PEOPLE NEED CHRIST ALONE FOR THESE ISSUES, this is not a |

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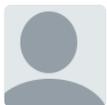


**Batten Jason** · 3 years ago

If disease is used metaphorically, it is a fine description. If one wants to equate model does not hold. One does not and cannot treat cancer by sitting in a room

I really believe likening addiction to sexual lust is the best analogy I know. One tempted to lust after a beautiful woman. One cannot make the choice to never lust. One, apart from God's grace through the Holy Spirit, will not be successful in no case at least. Nevertheless, we ARE responsible for lust, and guilty if we do lust for whisky and cigs. There may be times my body screams for the "relief" they provide. Christ, I am wrong. I've never fallen on my knees, cried out to Christ, and then gotten up. I don't like to use the word choice because people take it as demeaning the struggle like skipping dessert is a choice, but it is a choice like falling to lust is a choice. I agree with that the disease model doesn't cut it. I hope someone will right an article. Should Christians think about secular 12 step groups? Are they a mission field, or was incompatible with Christianity. I am curious what all the Biblical counselors

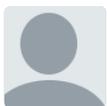
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**Rehab** · 3 years ago

I believe that it doesn't matter how you call it - disease, demon or decision. The word PROBLEM. Spiritual classes can greatly help an addict overcome struggle and become a better man. I have a friend who got so hooked to drugs, reformed himself by reading the Bible. Interesting article Mark! Thanks for sharing.

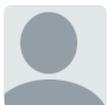
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**Cindy G** · 3 years ago

Dr. Mark is truly a man who lives for our Lord, is not afraid or ashamed to show his true and so Biblical. Thank you Father God for using Dr. Mark as a vessel for Your Word.

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**Andy Wisner** · 3 years ago

Mark, this is Andy Wisner and I can never just put my two cents in like pastor Bill. I found a very broad definition of disease,

"a disordered or incorrectly functioning organ, part, structure, or system of the body due to genetic or developmental errors, infection, poisons, nutritional deficiency or imbalance, or environmental factors; illness; sickness; ailment."

if we use this very broad definition being drunk could be defined as being chemically deficient or imbalance, toxicity or whatever defines the chemical results of excessive alcohol consumption.

not a disease it is a sin. Again using the broad definition, being a drunkard is a sin and being diseased often. I hope that makes at least a little bit of sense.

Being drunk is a self inflicted diseased state that comes from sinful and fleshly desires intended for selfish pleasure that may or may not be influenced by a demon. It is an addiction and with a possible extremely rare exception it seems to be invariably

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Jan** → Andy Wisner · 3 years ago

Andy,

One simple thought I picked up from the definition you supplied is "a disorder of the brain . . . from the effect of . . . poisons,(etc) . . ." Certainly the abuse of alcohol is a disorder of the body. But it is still a personal choice to poison our bodies.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**John Robinson** · 3 years ago

I have found it useful to suggest to clients that they consider their own Reptilian serpent in the Garden. The Reptilian brain is a primitive thing that controls lusts for pleasure and pain. It bears primary responsibility for addictions and other bad habits. It is not intelligent and can be outwitted by those who are dedicated to recovery/spiritual growth.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Markshaw** → John Robinson · 3 years ago

I like that analogy, Bro, because it puts the responsibility upon the person who chooses to drink. James 1:13-15!

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**Elieser L.** · 3 years ago

Dear Mark,

I agree with what you said, but when it comes to drugs and alcohol, you do have to consider that you are dealing with chemical dependency, and also you are opening yourself to

I agree it is not a disease and that we must take a decision of stopping. But today

you can give them a bible and ask them to go to church and all their problems cannot perform they say the person does not want recovery.

People need extra help when dealing with these kinds of sin. Since they control their lives to chemicals and demons.

Decisions should be to go to rehab or moving away to a different environment away from their bodies and bible start making effect on their souls...

Bible is sufficient, but as churches we need to give the extra hand and look for t Chruches prefer to condem rather than spending time. relationships, with addic same position?

God bless

E. Loewenthal

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Markshaw** → Elieser L. · 3 years ago

Hi, Eliser,

I agree with your comment that "spending time, relationships with addict is key so I hope you know that I agree that you don't just hand a Bible to overcome this problem on their own. I believe in the church community ; life-dominating sin issue requiring much time, energy, and willingness to

Let me say this: any new believer needs to be relationally discipled (or ta alone will not help new believers as much as both sermons and small g a one to one, counseling modality. I believe in all 3 of those for anyone, r

The Bible has much to say about "addiction". People who read my book me, "I had no idea the Bible said so much about addiction." To which I re were using the wrong labels to describe your problem. It's a problem of t

Unlike your comment above, I cannot say, "The Bible is sufficient, but..."

sufficient and requires the power of the Holy Spirit to understand it AND (1:22) for the glory of God.

[see more](#)

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**Pam** [→ Markshaw](#) · 3 years ago

Is the author addicted to food?

[^](#) | [v](#) · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›



**Elieser L.** [→ Markshaw](#) · 3 years ago

AMEM

THE BIBLE IS SUFFICIENT.

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**Brad Bigney** · 3 years ago

Excellent and biblical summary, Mark. Thanks for being a biblical counselor who carefully with people struggling with addictions.

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**Julie Ganschow** · 3 years ago

Mark, your post is excellent and very accurate! I think you will be in Sarasota in ; and I would like to meet up with you for lunch or something. I am speaking at the

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**Markshaw** [→ Julie Ganschow](#) · 3 years ago

Hi, Julie,

Yes, I'll be teaching a pre-conference in Sarasota for IABC and my only ; too, so I'll miss your workshops!

I would be honored and thrilled to meet with you guys while we are there

1 [^](#) | [v](#) · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›

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