

Drug Abuse (Addiction)

(Alcohol [ethyl] is a “drug” and tobacco [nicotine] is a “drug”, but we will talk about these two in a later lesson.)

1. We live in a drug culture; not just bad drugs, but good drugs as well (consider all the drug commercials on TV). We are not talking about the proper use of good drugs which heal; we are talking about drug abuse or illegal use of (non-prescribed) drugs that harm (marijuana, cocaine, heroin, meth, LSD, sedatives/depressants, amphetamines (stimulants), hallucinogens, narcotics, etc.); we are talking about addiction, not the proper use and amount of legal drugs. (If a harmful drug like marijuana is “prescribed” it doesn’t make it less harmful.)

2. Why and how do people get addicted to drugs?

Example of others like family, friends, culture, etc.

Pressure from peers to conform.

Escape some unpleasant circumstance or problem; pleasure.

Rebellion or protest against others like parents, teachers, law-enforcement, etc.

Legitimate medical treatment turned into addiction

Curiosity for something new and trending

3. What can we do to abstain from drug addiction?

Get all the facts about the dangers and problems of the drug; be informed.

Learn to properly deal with problems.

Be aware of the symptoms of drug abuse so that you can help others: sudden mood shifts, slurred speech, new habits, needle marks, money problems, theft and lying, withdraw, clothes that smell, etc.

Don’t even start!

4. We are not to be enslaved (addicted) to the wrong things (1 Cor. 6:12; Rom. 6:16)

5. Drugs affect the body and we are to keep our bodies pure and useful in the Lord’s service (1 Cor. 6:19; Rom. 12:1)

6. Drugs affect the mind and we are to keep our minds sober (Titus 2:5-6); we are to control our mind (1 Pet. 1:13).

7. We are to love God and serve him with our mind and body (Mt. 22:37; Rom. 7:25).

8. True happiness should be found in the Lord and in the right way (Jn. 13:17; Phil. 4:4,7, 11).
9. We are not to break the law by using something illegally (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-17).