

Addictions of flesh versus spirit

Avoid trapping yourself and others. Recognize that you CAN give yourself over to anything other than God. Mind set on addiction, slavery, lust and coveting. Rom 8:6 flesh vs spirit

Jer 17:9 “The heart is more deceitful than anything else, and incurable—who can understand it?”

Eph 4:19 ...having lost all sensitivity (conscience became numb), they have given themselves over to sensuality...”

Slavery to the flesh

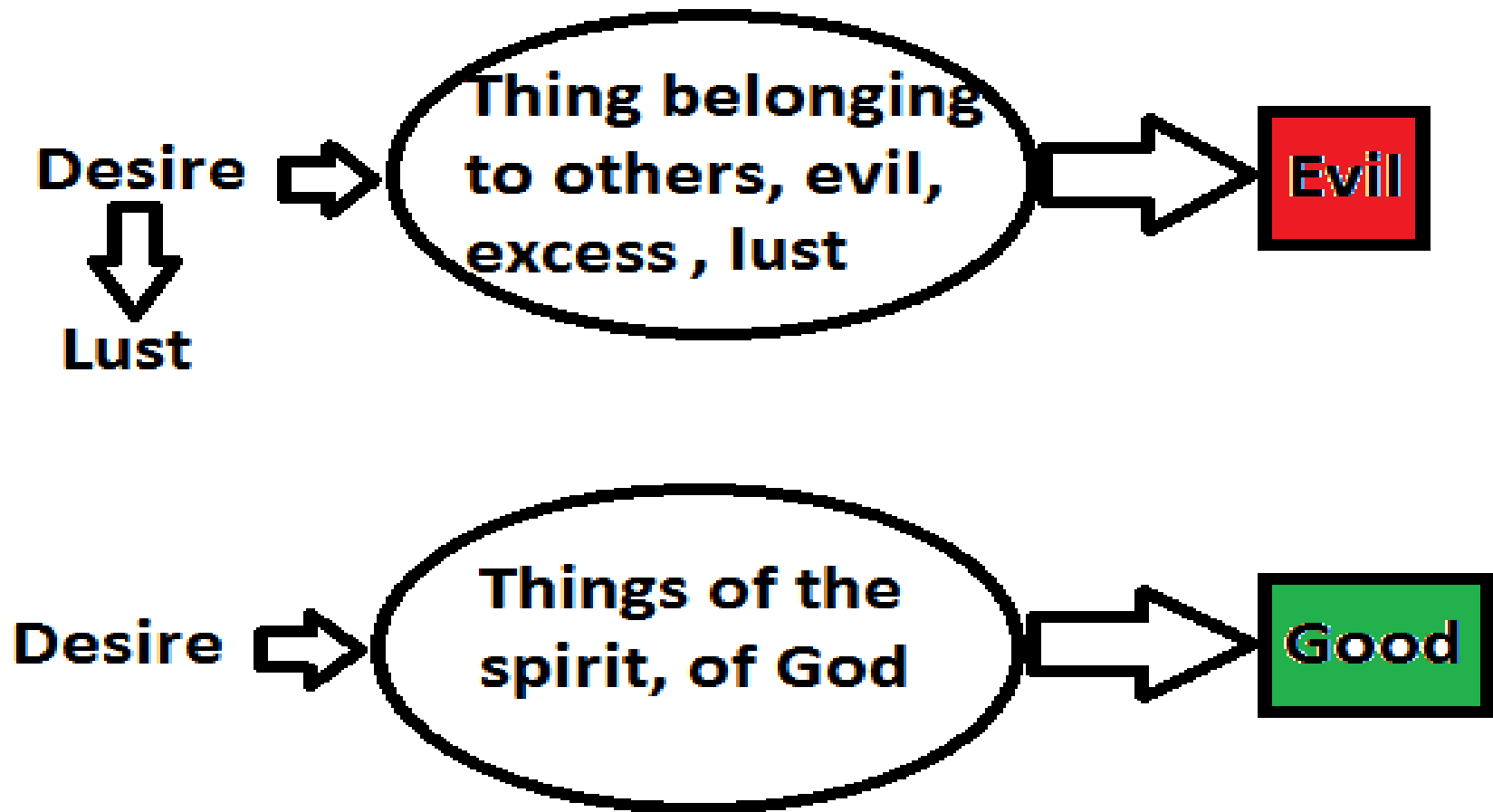
Addiction: “a strong and harmful need to regularly have something (such as a drug) or do something (such as gamble): an unusually great interest in something or a need to do or have something. Sexual behavior, eating, gambling, playing video games, and shopping are recognized addictions.” Merriam Webster

John 8:34 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

A few addictions recognized by man

Colloquial term	Addiction to
chocoholic	chocolate
danceaholic	dance
rageaholic	rage
sexaholic	sex
sugarholic	sugar
workaholic	work

Covetousness



God judges the thoughts and intents of our hearts. Heb 4:12 For the word of God is alive and active. ... it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Exo 32:6 Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

1Co 10:7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were. As it is written: "And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."

Things to desire: Spiritual things, good things of flesh, bad things of flesh

1. Spiritual things to be desired and addicted to:

Stephanas and his family 1Co 16:15 “I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and {that} they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)”

2. Neutral things of flesh, ok to desire, to like them, but not to covet after.

- **God has given us desires for the things of the flesh and lawful means to satisfy them. As long we are moderate as we are instructed. Tit 2:11,12**

- **Christ set us free (Gal 2:4), but 1Co 10:23 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.**

When we de-emphasize spiritual things, we naturally turn ourselves to this world (of flesh). Its ok to like the world, but DON'T love it.

1Jo 2:15,16 *Do not love the world or the things in the world.*

Normal appeals to the flesh could turn into lust for yourself and others.

Desire for honey (sweets) Pro 25:16 Have you found honey? Eat only as much as you need, Lest you be filled with it and vomit.

Normal desire for good things to drink, like grape juice (oinos, good wine, not mood altering drugs)

1Pet 4:3 For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.

- **God says to “be sober” in 1Th 5:8**

Sex – the normal appeal to appetite of flesh, but reserved for a man and his wife. Heb 13:4 Marriage should be honored by all and the marriage bed kept undefiled

Appeals to the eye – normal beauty appreciation – eye of the beholder

- **Not pornography – Job 31:1 “I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman.**
- **Not overly fixated on bodily perfection**
 - **Physical appearance, women affected by Anorexia – 1Pet 3:3,4 gentle and quiet spirit, not a “Cindy Crawford - supermodel” look alike**
 - **Men become “gym rats” to look like Arnold...**

Clothing: Mat 6:32, 28 “Gentiles strive after all these things...”

Men appreciate the female form. It can lead to lust – what did Job and David do about this?

Paul said 1 Cor. 6:12,13 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body {is} not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

Among these “things” are a long list such as food, fun, entertainment, job, travel, family, ... essentially any good thing can become a bad addiction (covetousness) if it keeps us from putting God first.

Don't allow these things to cause someone else to stumble. Paul said in 1Co 8:13 and 1Co 10:26 he would give up his liberties for the conscience of others. Be concerned about your family!

If we are able to set priorities, we can succeed. If we make an excuse to not serve God, it is idolatry, or something we are addicted to.

Col 3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. See vs 6,7

It is covetousness or idolatry. When a disciple makes a commitment to God, then fails due to fleshly desires, he is addicted.

Wrong priorities or failure to keep priorities indicates idolatry. Israel's history shows clearly the impossibility of serving two masters.

Paul told the Romans in: Rom. 6:16, 17 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

3. Bad things of this world

Paul said in Rom 16:13 *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to {fulfill its} lusts..*

If we are caught up in that which is leading us away from God or in forbidden thought or activity, God has given us instruction wiser than any psychiatrist or doctor could muster.

First, we learn that our heart is deceitful and not to be trusted. Jer 17:9 *"The heart {is} deceitful above all {things}, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?"*

God has searched our hearts and given feedback. Jam 1:23-25 *For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues {in it}, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*

Addict yourselves to God's Word and His work. Remember, He disciplines us for our good (profit). Heb 12:10 *For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness*