

## 5 EASY STEPS TO WRECK YOUR LIFE - 3 - HOW TO BECOME AN ADDICT

12 "Everything is permissible for me"-but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"-but I will not be mastered by anything. **1 Corinthians 6:12**

**mastered: exousiazo (ex-oo-see-ad'-zo); to be controlled by or enslaved, brought under the power of something.**

### WHAT HAS MASTERED YOU?

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14 He cut down cedars, or perhaps took a cypress or oak...15 Some of it he takes and warms himself, he kindles a fire and bakes bread. But he also fashions a god and worships it; he makes an idol and bows down to it... He prays to it and says, "Save me; you are my god." 18 ...Their eyes are plastered over so they cannot see, and their minds closed so they cannot understand. 19 No one stops to think..."Half of it I used for fuel... Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left? Shall I bow down to a block of wood?" 20 He feeds on ashes, a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, "Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?" **Isaiah 44:14-15, 17-20**

• **WE'RE SEEKING TO FIND WHAT ONLY GOD CAN PROVIDE IN SOMETHING BESIDES GOD HIMSELF.**

### FIVE EASY STEPS TO BECOME AN ADDICT

#### 1) **DON'T ADMIT YOU HAVE A PROBLEM.**

13 Only acknowledge your guilt. Admit that you rebelled against the Lord your God and committed adultery against him by worshiping idols... **Jeremiah 3:13 NLT**

#### 2) **GRATIFY YOUR FLESHLY DESIRES.**

16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. **Galatians 5:16-18**

#### 3) **RATIONALIZE YOUR BEHAVIOR AND MAKE EXCUSES.**

18 "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' 19 "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' 20 "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' **Luke 14:18-20**

#### **4) KEEP YOUR ADDICTION A SECRET.**

*He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy. **Proverbs 28:13***

#### **5) DEPEND ON YOUR OWN POWER—NEVER GOD'S.**

*3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

#### **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

*5 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery... **Galatians 5:1***

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1) What has mastered you?
- 2) For many addictions, we're seeking what only God can provide in something besides God Himself. What do you think your addiction is providing that God wants to provide?
- 3) What is your next step to overcome a false master? Be specific. Pray for each other.