

III. THE CURE FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE

A. A right relationship with God.

“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,”
Ephesians 5:18

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,” Acts 3:19

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” James 4:7

B. A right relationship with people.

“Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.” I Corinthians 15:33

*“24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,
25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”* Hebrews 10:24-25

*“1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
2 Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”* Galatians 6:1-2

Are You Tempted By Substance Abuse?

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”
I Corinthians 10:13

TEMPTED
Tempted By Substance Abuse
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INTRODUCTION

A. Temptation can have the appearance of looking good. You take the first bite, but in a short time, it will turn around and bite you! We have all given into temptation only to find ourselves in pain.

“12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.”
James 1:12-16

B. In this series, come and find hope and relief in dealing with these topics of temptation!

Feb 10	Tempted By Sex
Feb 17	Tempted By Relationships
Feb 24	Tempted By Anger
Mar 3	Tempted By Shopping
TODAY	Tempted By Substance Abuse
Mar 17	Tempted By Food
Mar 24	Tempted By Pride

What’s hidden in the dark is never good!

C. **Text:** Ephesians 4:22-24 (Pew Bible/Page199 /New Test.)

WHAT TO DO WHEN TEMPTED BY SUBSTANCE ABUSE

I. THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

A. It is destructive.

*“29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?
30 Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine.”* Proverbs 23:29-30

B. It is deceptive.

*“31 Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it swirls around smoothly;
32 At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper.”* Proverbs 23:31-32

C. It is disorienting.

*“33 Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things.
34 Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying:”* Proverbs 23:33-34

D. It is dominating.

“They have struck me, but I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?” Proverbs 23:35

II. THE CAUSE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

A. The root cause is depravity.

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,” Hebrews 12:1

“18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.

19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.

20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.”

Romans 7:18-20

B. The root cause is not disease.

“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.” Colossians 2:8

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” II Corinthians 5:17

“9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

I Corinthians 6:9-11