



Sermon Series: INTERVENTION

Sermon Title: Addiction

Ask, What do you think makes most people happy? or What makes life worth living?

What makes life miserable? Sin

Read this statement - We all are addicted to something or someone -either trying to get out of it or hide it. How does that resonate with you? Do you feel like we are all addicted to someone or something?

The word addicted comes from the Latin – addictus – enslaved by or bound to

How does addiction take root? Short science lesson here. – in the pleasure center of our brain – dopamine chemical produced which gives us a physical reaction.

What is the outcome of the life of an addict?

“Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.” Philippians 3:17-18 ESV

An addict believes the lie that God is not enough. Somehow, I need more than God provides and so I take it upon myself to make sure I have all I need.

“For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.” Philippians 3:18-19 ESV

Ironically, The feeling of joy/pleasure turns to shame.

“You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” John 8:44 ESV

The addict begins to believe and live out, “I can’t be me and so I live a double life.”

How does addiction start?

Pleasure/dopamine

Three Lies we come to believe that lead to addiction:

1. **I deserve it.** – decision upon decision upon decision – The same ways that poor decisions build on one another, good decisions can work to break addiction as well. When we believe we deserve it, it Screams of indulgence. *“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” Galatians 5:13 ESV*
2. **I can’t handle it.** – I will use whatever means to escape and numb the pain to avoid reality. We indulge. *“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” James 1:2-4 ESV*

The truth is, **With God you can handle it.** *“And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.” 1 Peter 5:10 ESV*

3. **I can handle it.** – This is the lie believing that this little thing will not capture me. Where do you draw the line? Overconfidence in ourselves and not relying on Christ. *“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything.” 1 Corinthians 6:12 ESV*

Refuse to be enslaved by anything. Anything that replaces the HS in your life is sin

“The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves.”

Romans 14:22 ESV

“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”

Philippians 3:20-21 ESV

“Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.” Philippians 4:1 ESV

All three lies - All stem from impatience. Do you really believe and trust God in His timing in our lives?

What happens when the things that make life worth living don't come in your timing?

We take shortcuts rather than working.

Addiction is the evidence that we would make a better god ourselves.

Your biggest asset isn't something you possess, it's when nothing possesses you other than the love of God.

Allow time for prayer requests and close your time in prayer.