

GoDeeper



CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION WITH YOUR SMALL GROUP, FAMILY, OR IN YOUR PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY TIME.

Don't Feed The Monster | Part 3-Addiction | Pastor Corey Green | 10.18.2020
Replay message at: <http://www.northpointeFL.org/messages>

Pastor Corey suggested that we are all prone to addiction and that we maybe even all struggle with addiction?

- Is this an overstatement? Why or why not?
- Can you honestly say that you do not have addiction or addictions in your life?
- Who are the people in your life who struggle with addiction?

Pastor Corey explained that more importantly than DEFINE what addiction IS (since it can become a never-ending argument swirling in a semantic vortex) we should DESCRIBE what addiction DOES. He mentioned the following effects of addiction:

- Captivates (Gen 3:6)
- Demands energy (Gen 3:7)
- Tensions and fractures human relationships (Gen 3:16)
- Breeds deception (Gen 3:8)
- Leads to hiding from God (Gen 3:9-12)

Sharing candidly from your own experience or sharing anonymously about someone in your life who struggles in the area of addiction, are these described effects accurate?

Dr. T.J. Betts said, "God allows us to feel inadequate so that we will trust him and rely on him."

- How do you think this pertains to addiction?
- Is God sovereign over our addictions?
- Does he allow them in our lives?
- If yes, then what would be his purpose for doing so?
 - o Do you know anyone with an addiction that God has redeemed?
 - o Has that person, having been given freedom, brought glory to God?

Pastor Corey spoke about how SIN is not the same as SINS. He explained that sins can be viewed as isolated incidents within our control with the ability for us to choose whether or not we commit them. Sin, on the other hand, is a "pervasive, hopeless state of mind and body."

- How does having a proper view of SIN help us approach God?
- How does a proper view of SIN help us face addiction?

Addiction has been ignored or over-spiritualized in Western Christianity. The Church has told people to pray harder, try harder, and surrender harder. This has left generations of addicts feeling as if they are not welcome and that the Church doesn't understand their plight. While prayer and striving for holiness are critical to overcoming addiction (or any pattern sin in our lives) . . .

- Where does that strategy fall short?
- How can the Church better minister to those struggling with addiction?
- What practical help can churches offer?
- How can you be a part of the movement that proclaims freedom through Christ to this marginalized community of people?
- In light of Romans 7:14-25 and 1 John 1:8-9, what can we determine about the sin of believers?