



# CHURCH AMBASSADOR NETWORK

AN INITIATIVE OF THE FAMILY LEADER FOUNDATION

## Biblical Principles on Bondage and Addictions

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” Luke 4:18-19.

### Introduction

In the Church Ambassador Network, a ministry of The FAMILY LEADER Foundation, we hold to the teachings of the Bible that true freedom is solely found in the work and person of Jesus Christ. Through Christ's work on the Cross, and His resurrection three days later, the debt of our sin was paid and the power of sin through death was defeated. It was the reason He came. Christ provides a way and hope for all who have been impacted by bondage and addictions. As we seek to imitate Christ, it is our heart to see those who have been taken captive set free, and we want to partner with the State of Iowa in helping make that a reality for more Iowans.

### Theological Principles on Bondage and Addictions

**1. Addictions seem innocent in the beginning, as they promise life and entertainment. However, it ends in bondage and the loss of control of one's own life.**

All addictions start the same. They promise life and entertainment, and at first they are. You want to go back. You want to bring your friends. It is innocent and cheap at first. It begins as a choice. That once innocent choice over time becomes an addiction. Now a person may desire to quit, but they can't. They keep going back, even against their own will. It is no longer entertaining, life-giving, or cheap. It will now cost them everything. It will cost them their time, resources, physical health and relationships.

“Everything is permissible for me,” but not everything is helpful. “Everything is permissible for me,” but I will not be brought under the control of anything.” 1 Corinthians 6:12.

**2. Addictions and bondage come at a very high cost for the individual, family, and community.**

Addictions don't only come at a financial or time cost. They come at a great relational cost, which is the greatest cost of them all. Addicts over time lose marriages, parental rights, and friendships. Those costs that were once only a personal cost now come at a great cost to the family and community.

“But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.” James 1:14-15.

**3. Addictions and bondage require brokenness and intervention in order for a person to be set free.**

It is very difficult to help someone who doesn't want help nor desires to change. In the Scriptures, salvation follows repentance and recognition of a need of a Savior. Repentance is pulling a 180, it is recognizing you did wrong and want to do right. If someone is going to be set free from their addiction, they must have a humble, repentant spirit with a desire to change.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9.

#### 4. **The Law is a tool and guide to protect people from bondage and addictions.**

The law cannot save people, neither can it eliminate wrong behavior. The law is not, and must not, be the final solution. However, it must be a part of it. The law has been used as a tool to serve and assist people for generations. Laws will never eradicate addictions, but they can guide people away from addictions and protect them from those who desire to make them addicted. Laws must continue to be used as tools to both help people break free from addictions, and more importantly protect them from ever getting addicted.

“The law, then, was our guardian until Christ, so that we could be justified by faith.” Galatians 3:24.

“What should we say then? Is the law sin? Absolutely not! But I would not have known sin if it were not for the law.” Romans 7:7.

#### 5. **Oppressors want to keep people in bondage.**

Oppression is when someone is intentionally using power and authority to keep someone under their control. A lot of money can be made off of someone who is addicted. They are a guaranteed repeat customer that does not require clever marketing or good service to maintain. You just have to sell them once and then you have them for life. Companies or individuals who make money off of products that cause addiction have a vested interest in keeping people addicted.

“Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.” Isaiah 1:17.

“Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.” Proverbs 22:16.

#### **Filling An Empty Void**

Addiction is caused by a deeper issue in the soul, and is an attempt to numb a wound and fill a void. Here are some of the voids and what the soul is truly longing for.

1. **Boredom:** Desire joy and addiction is an attempt to find it.
2. **Loneliness:** Desire a friend and addiction promises to be a faithful one.
3. **Stress:** Desire a comforter and addiction brings temporary comfort.
4. **Frustration:** Desire peace and addiction brings a short-term sense of it.
5. **Fatigue:** Desire life and addiction brings a fleeting jolt of it.
6. **Hurt:** Desire refuge and addiction brings an empty sense of it.
7. **Betrayal:** Desire revenge and addiction becomes a means to deliver it.
8. **Bitterness:** Desire justice and addiction becomes a means to deliver it.
9. **Rejection:** Desire comfort and the addiction becomes your means for comfort.
10. **Opportunity:** Desire pleasure and the addiction becomes your default recreation; your preferred hobby.
11. **Failure:** Desire success, so through the addiction you make a fantasy world where you always win.
12. **Success:** Desire reward, so the addiction is your reward.
13. **Entitlement:** Desire getting what you deserve through the addiction.
14. **Desire to please:** Desire is to be affirmed, you use your addiction to receive affirmation.
15. **Time of day:** Desire to keep a routine. Your addiction has become a part of your daily routine.
16. **Location:** Desire to escape by using addiction to escape current place in life.
17. **Negative self-image:** Desire to silence those thoughts by using addiction to create the desired self-image.
18. **Weakness:** Desire power and use addiction to feel powerful.

**In Conclusion:** While addictions/bondage are complex and can involve genetic/biological, psychosocial, and relational factors, there is also a spiritual dynamic. Thus, the neurobiological and treatment factors of addiction are valid, but we believe it is also important to consider biblical solutions about addictions/bondage from a holistic perspective. Addiction, in all its various expressions, results in the formation of spiritual strongholds and spiritual bondage in the life of the addict. All of us, including the addict, need to find true freedom in and through Jesus Christ.