



ELEPHANTS IN THE ROOM

“Addictions or Freedom”

Romans 6:11-14

June 23, 2019

...for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him... 2 Peter 2:19

WHAT HAS MASTERED YOU?

“Everything is permissible for me -- but I will not be mastered by anything.” 1 Corinthians 6:12

kurieuo (ko-ree-yoo'-o); to rule: have dominion over, be lord of.

ARE YOU MASTERED?

- Do your family and friends say you have a problem?
- Do you continue even though you're hurting people?
- Do you arrange your schedule around it?
- Can you go one week without it?
- Is it leading you to isolation?
- Are you trying to keep it a secret?

SATAN'S CYCLE OF DESTRUCTION

- Your addiction becomes a part of your identity.
- When you try to quit but fail, you feel increasingly hopeless.
- Any threat to your addiction becomes a threat to you.
- You lose friends, money, health, family—further wounding your struggling self-esteem.
- You ease the pain by getting your next fix.

1) TAKE OWNERSHIP OF YOUR PROBLEM

“Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, “I will confess my rebellion to the Lord. And you forgive me! All my guilt is gone.” Psalm 32:5 (NLT)

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

“Have mercy on me, o God because of your unfailing love, because of your great compassion, blot of the stain of my sins. Wash me clean from my guilt, purify me from my sin. Against you, and you alone, I have sinned: I have done what is evil in your sight.” Psalm 51:2,4

2) TAKE IT TO & TRUST IN THE POWER OF GOD

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 2 Corinthians 10:4

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses... For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

3) TAKE IT PUBLIC & TAKE DOWN PRIDE & SHAME

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed... James 5:16

- Help me with prayer
- Help me when I fall
- Help me with accountability
- Help me to get professional help

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 2 Corinthians 12:9

4) TAKE NO PRISONERS

- **Submit yourself to Christ**

"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7

- **Cut some ties**

"Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning...Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." 1 Corinthians 15:33-34

"If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away..." Matthew 5:29a

- **Capture sinful thoughts**

"...we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

"...whatever is true...noble...right...pure...lovely...admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy- think about such things. Philippians 4:8

- **Bounce your eyes**

"I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl." Job 31:1

- **Run for your life**

"But you, Timothy, you are a man of God, so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness." 1 Timothy 6:11

- **Do your part**

"No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize." 1 Corinthians 9:27

I can do everything through (Christ) who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13

5) TAKE MEASURES TO FILL THE VOID

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18

- **Get (Be) Filled with the Spirit**

- **Get in God's Word**

- **Get in Church**

- **Get in a LifeGroup**

- **Get in a Recovery/Support Group**

- **Get counseling (professional help)**

6) TAKE COURAGE, THERE IS HOPE

"For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

"...Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." John 16:33

"What then shall we say to these things, If God is for us, who is against us." Romans 8:31

