

Recovery Ministry Report

All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

1 Corinthians 6:12

The “power” that the Apostle Paul speaks of in this verse is from the Greek word *exousia* which speaks of the power of authority, charge, or control. This power is abundantly evident in the life of an individual who is addicted to drugs, alcohol, or pornography. He (or she) may have the desire and the best of intentions to remove himself from that power, but still remains in the cycle of weakness, regret, and shame. Every binge, bender, or hangover is followed by the promise of “never again,” only to break that promise a short time later.

Where is freedom? Where is real and permanent change? It is found first and foremost in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.—John 8:36

Secondly, but still of great importance, is the reality that an addicted individual will not find freedom and change apart from other believers.

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.—James 5:16

Scripture repeatedly affirms the promise that we will be forgiven of our sins when we confess them to God, but this verse speaks of being healed when we confess one to another. It is humbling, and sometimes embarrassing to admit our faults to each other. However, God desires that believers (especially members of the same local church) take off the mask of “having it all together” so that we can encourage each other to healing. In this way, we will share in each other’s experiences of the Son making us free indeed.

Christ-centered recovery ministries are effective, and viable options for local churches to serve their members, and their community to see captives set free. Some people find effective help with secular recovery ministries, but we don’t want to miss the opportunity to connect with those who are seeking recovery so that they may be brought to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Finally, even if you are not under the power of drugs, alcohol, or pornography, are you under the power of something else? Do you attempt to soothe the pains of life with television, overeating, smartphone use, a co-dependent relationship, anger, blame, cockiness, mockery, gossip, shopping, isolation, or anything else? While these vices may not render the obvious harm of the big 3 mentioned before, they are still issues of sin, and of not addressing matters of the heart.

True healing will be found in a church where the drug addict is sitting next to the co-dependent, who is sitting next to the one with a short temper, who is sitting next to the sex addict, who is sitting next to the gossiper, and so on and so on, until all have experienced the grace of God that is greater than all our sins. God will do powerful work in an environment where people don’t feel like they need to whitewash their outward image in order to enter into His presence.

Respectfully submitted, Unity Missionary Baptist Church

Missionary Greg Devine