

The Worst Addiction

Dependencies on alcohol, drugs, and pornography grab international attention. So do eating disorders, sexual aberrations, and gambling compulsions. Yet something more destructive strangles life out of many people. Worse than silent heart attacks and virulent cancers, this habit ruins millions of lives. Happy, peace-loving people become rage-filled, and out-of-control. This addiction crosses color, age, and gender lines, affecting folks of all intelligence levels. Serious depression and hopelessness often result.

Few identify this practice as an addiction. For sure the media will not. But it definitely is. I refer to our addiction to the news on social media and the major networks. For some reason, we feel obligated to stay current with all events. The media greedily pander to this need like unscrupulous barkeeps. They virtually scream at us with “breaking news” and up-to-the-second reports on the miserable state of the world.

If they brought information that helped save lives, or improved life, their efforts might be justified. Most news only frightens and angers us. We can do nothing but worry about ninety-nine percent of it.

Are you a news addict? People came asking Jesus if he’d heard the latest news of murder and tragedy. As high-paid experts do today, specialists speculated about the meaning of tragic events. Jesus warned us that we should be concerned about one fateful coming event. Unless we change our behavior and our attitudes, we shall suffer worse a disaster than people did in the tragedies reported. All human beings will answer to God in the judgment. Are you ready for that reckoning? Unless you are prepared in Christ to meet God, all other news is meaningless. **“Unless you repent . . .you will perish,”** said Jesus in