

Marks of a Man # 8

KJV & NKJV: Not given to wine; NASB: Not addicted to wine; ESV: Not a drunkard; NIV: Not given to drunkenness.

Area: Addictions

Definition: Substance addiction through abuse of that substance

Scripture: 1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7; See 1 Tim. 5:23

Bible Usage: Substance abuse to the point of being controlled by that substance, resulting in a clouding of the mind and judgement, destroying the ability to lead.

Proverbs: 13:25; 20:1; 23:20,21, 29-35; _____

Functioning in my Soul:

1. **Mind** - A clear perception of the trap of substance abuse
2. **Conscience** - Clear as to my ways in this area
3. **Heart** - Scripture deeply internalized in my reasoning
4. **Frame** - Clearly established principles, and definite goals to keep them
5. **Will** - Totally governed by the Heart and the Frame
6. **Emotions** - Not getting out of control and leading me into this sin

Resolved:

To continually reject over-use of any addictive substance resulting in being addicted to that substance.

Essay:

Source of Problem: In my experience, there is an overwhelming cause to get started on an addictive substance. Examples I know of are physical pain, emotional pain, peer pressure, or just plain stupidity. The body then develops an addiction, from which the withdrawals become, to the addicted, prohibitive. Thus, almost anything will be done to continue the addiction, in order in many cases, to avoid the horrors of withdrawal.

Problem: These substances, being mind altering, destroy Objectivity, Focus, and Alertness (OFA). This, in turn, certainly destroys any chance of competent leadership.

Solution: Easy for someone who has not been an addict to say. God has, in my opinion, created certain substances for pain control. When these are misused, it appears to me, addiction occurs. I believe the basic solution is that one has an overwhelming purpose in life that cannot be fulfilled with the mind altered. Therefore, they choose purpose over a mind altering substance.

Avoidance: Be on the lookout for an attitude that, without a life-consuming purpose, sees mind-altering substances as a valid escape from reality. The power for this is, of course, the Holy Spirit using the Word.

