

Top Ten Problem Solving Series

by Pastor Antonio M. Alfred

Biblical Summary – Drunkenness (Drug Addiction)

- ❖ Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor DRUNKARDS, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such WERE some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God (1 Cor. 6:9-11).
- ❖ The apostle Paul says "Such WERE some of you".
 - The verb is in the past tense.
 - God made it possible for these Corinthian Christians to put away the problem of addiction once and for all; they were beyond it.
 - Jesus Christ, who by forgiving and cleansing and changing them through giving them His Spirit, made it possible for the to do so.
- ❖ Notice, unlike other ways of dealing with the problem, Paul says that it can be cleared up once and for all.
 - That means that he disagrees with those who say that everyday for the rest of his life, the drunkard or drug addict must tell himself "I am an alcoholic" or "I am an addict", even after years of sobriety.
 - Jesus offers no such half-way solution but fully forgives and enables him to conquer these sins.
 - Therefore, there is only one way to put this problem permanently behind him: God's way.
- ❖ Drunkenness (drug addiction) is a life-dominating problem that affects (and is affected by) every area of life.

This material is adopted from the Christian Counselors New Testament by J. Adams and A Homework Manual for Biblical Living by W. Mack

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- Therefore, a total restructuring must be worked toward, in which every area of the his life is filled with (brought under the domination of) the Holy Spirit.
- For example, think of the areas his life like an auditorium.
 - Thus, every seat must be occupied by the Holy Spirit (church, work, relationships, etc.).
- In Ephesians 5:18, the apostle Paul exhorts the believer, "Don't get drunk with wine, since that leads to utter ruin, but rather be filled by the Spirit."
- Thus every area of his life must be brought under the control of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ In addition, he must cultivate proper friendship.
 - "Don't be misled, bad companions corrupt good habits (1 Cor. 15:33)."
 - Even after established, good habits can be lost.
 - Influence is vital and it is necessary for him to separate from evil companions.
 - He must repent of his sin to God, seek His help to understand the Scriptures and be enable to apply them accurately to his own life.
 - He must be willing to please God whatever He requires them to do.
- ❖ By the grace of God, he can unhook his addiction.
 - It is not easy and it can also be discouraging.
 - Therefore it is wise to enlist a knowledgeable Christians (those who know the Scripture so as to help him find Biblical alternative to put on as he put off the old ways).
 - If he truly trust in Jesus Christ and do as He says, by His grace he will succeed.