

**ARE YOU AN ADDICT?  
1Corinthians 16:15-18**

- A. What do you think of when you hear the word “addict”?
- B. This term usually carries the thought of something negative and destructive.
- C. An addict is usually one who is controlled by a foreign substance.
- D. The majority of addicts become addicted to the substance of their own freewill.
- E. Tragically, there are children born into this world addicted to the same substance as their mother.
- F. The conduct or behavior concerning addicts is sometimes very noticeable.
  - 1. Their behavior has radically changed or is unpredictable.
  - 2. Their appearance has changed for the worse.
  - 3. Their speech or vocabulary has changed.
  - 4. Their view of life has more than likely changed.
  - 5. Their desire to remain an active part of society has diminished.
- G. Some become addicted to drugs in an attempt to remove from their minds from the difficulties of life.
- H. Some tried the substance as a part of “recreation,” only to become enslaved to the drug.
- I. Some who become addicts thought they were too strong become addicted.
- J. The academic world has applied the word “addiction” to many behaviors that are not addictions.
- K. For instance, singer Eric Benet revealed not too long ago that he was being treated for “sexual addiction.”
- L. There are those who claim that they are addicted to food.
- M. God addresses this matter in 1 Corinthians 7:9; 9:27 & Hebrews 13:5.
- N. In contrast, the house of Stephanas was commended for being addicts of the biblical sort.
- O. The members of this family were the first converts or “first fruits” of the European country Achaia a-kay-a).
- P. There are some noticeable qualities regarding Stephanas that we should note.

**I. HIS MIND EXPERIENCES A CONVERSION**

- A. Remember, an addict is one who is controlled by an external substance.
- B. In the biblical sense, he has allowed the word of God to penetrate his heart and control his actions (Psm.119:11, 97).
- C. The psalmist declared, “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul” (Psm.19:7).
- D. The term “perfect” actually means “harmless.”
- E. The verb “converting” means “to bring back.”
- F. Conversion takes place when the mind is enlighten (Psm.19:8).
- G. Conversion takes place when one changes his mind towards sin (Jon.3:1-70).
- H. Conversion occurs when one changes his sinful actions (Jon.3:8-10).
- I. The Greek verb is found seven times in the N.T. translated “converted” (Matt.13:15; 18:3; Luke 22:32; Acts 3:19; 28:27).
- J. It is also translated “turn” (Acts 9:35) or “turn to” (Acts 26:20) to God.
- L. It is used in a negative sense (2 Pet.2:21).
- M. It can mean “to recover” (Luke 22:32). A man is regenerated only once; however, he may be converted as he fails into sin.
- N. It means “to turn back morally, to reform” (Acts 3:19).

**II. HE WILLINGLY SUBMITTED HIMSELF TO THE MASTER**

- A. This is the only acceptable attitude revealed in Scripture.
- B. Abraham possessed this spirit (Gen.18:16-33).
- C. The righteous king Abimelech possessed this attitude (Gen.20:1-7).

- D. The boy Samuel possessed this mind-set (1Sam.3:8-10).
- E. Righteous Nehemiah likewise possessed this frame of mind (Neh.1:1-6).
- F. If one is going to follow Christ, he must acknowledge Christ as master (Acts 2:36).
- G. The brethren at Macedonia fully understood their relationship with Christ (2 Cor.8:15).

### **III. HE BECAME CONCERNED WITH THE WELFARE OF OTHERS**

- A. The term “addicted” means “devoted.”
- B. The word “ministry” means “service.”
- C. The object of his devotion was “the saints.”

### **IV. HE BECAME AN EXAMPLE WORTH IMITATING**

- A. Paul instructions to Corinth: “That ye submit yourselves unto such” (v.16).
- B. Remember, Corinth was basically full of individuals who were selfish and childish.
- C. Paul was not teaching that there was a so-called upper class in the church; Ephesians 5:21 teaches that we should submit to one another or show each other the same amount of respect.
- D. So, in essence, Paul was encouraging them to take note of and notes from Stephanas.
- E. He was known as a sincere helper and worker.

### **V. HE CARRIED MORE THAN HIS SHARE OF THE LOAD**

- A. Stephanas’ ministry included supporting missionaries financially (v.17).
- B. Stephanas understood that the Gospel preacher needed support.
- C. It is implied that he and the other brothers mentioned gave of their own resources as opposed to the congregation of Corinth.
- D. It is also implied that the church at Corinth was capable of giving more.
- E. Stephanas and the other two brothers hand delivered their support to Paul.

### **VI. HE WAS A SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

- A. The visit by Stephanas was a source of joy.
- B. “Refreshed” means “to cause or permit one to cease from any movement or labor in order to recover and collect his strength” (1 Cor.16:18; Phm.7, 20).
- C. This term is likewise translated “rest” (Matt.11:28; Mark 6:30-31).
- D. Paul knew full well that we are capable of becoming fatigued (Gal.6:9).

## **CONCLUSION**

- A. Stephanas’ chief trait was his willingness to serve others.
- B. He looked beyond himself and saw the need to help and encourage others.
- C. Are you addicted to Christ?
- D. Do you help the needy (Matt.25:41-42)
- E. What is your understanding of James.1:27?
- F. Do you visit the sick (Matt.25:43)?
- G. Are you constantly seeking out souls to teach (Luke 19:10)?
- H. When is the last time you earnestly sought out a Bible study?
- I. Do you seek after those who have strayed away (Gal.6:1-2).
- J. Are you prepared when you come to Bible study (Acts 17:10-11)?
- K. Do you ever involve yourself in the Bible study (Acts 17:1-3)?
- L. Do you and your family have Bible devotions and discussions (Acts 12:1-12)?
- M. Do you have the resources at your home (a spiritual library) that allows for suitable Bible study and research?**
- N. If your answer to question “K” is no, have you approached the elders for help concerning this matter?