

## How does God view addiction?

How would you describe what addiction is?



Give examples of substance addictions.

Give examples of behavioral addictions.

Read this excerpt from the Cleveland Clinic website. Do you agree or disagree?

*Is addiction a disease?*

*Yes, addiction is a disease — it's a chronic condition. The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) defines addiction as a chronic brain disorder. Addiction doesn't happen from having a lack of willpower or as a result of making bad decisions. Your brain chemistry changes with addiction.*

Read John 8:34,36. What do Jesus' words add to the discussion of addiction?

*"Amen amen I tell you, everyone who is doing the sin is a slave of the sin...if the Son sets you free, you will really be free."*

Let's look at the following sections of Scripture. How do they help us in this matter?

*Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim with new wine. (Prov 3:9-10)*

*He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate—bringing forth food from the earth: wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread that sustains his heart. (Ps 104:14-15)*

*Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses. (1 Tim 5:23)*

*After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." (Lk 22:17-18)*

*Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise. (Prov 20:1)*

*"O my son, O son of my womb, O son of my vows, do not spend your strength on women, your vigor on those who ruin kings. It is not for kings, O Lemuel—not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer, lest they drink and forget what the law decrees, and deprive all the oppressed of their rights." (Prov 31:4-5)*

*And these also stagger from wine and reel from beer: Priests and prophets stagger from beer and are befuddled with wine; they reel from beer, they stagger when seeing visions, they stumble when making decisions. All the tables are covered with vomit and there is not a spot without filth. (Is 28:7-8)*

*Do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph 5:17-20)*

*Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, or males who have sex with males, no thieves, greedy people, drunkards, verbally abusive people, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom. And some of you used to be like this. 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.*