

# Substance Use Disorders - HELP FOR ADDICTED FAMILIES



# HELP FOR ADDICTED FAMILIES

## Introduction

**Most families are dysfunctional in some way.**

**All have room for growth.**



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**By training are care givers/  
care takers,**

**but by nature are selfish.**



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## Introduction

**When care giving shifts to care taking we may be in trouble.**



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**Brief Overview of the home as God would have it:**

**One man for one woman for life (Gen. 2:18-24; Matt. 19:2-10)**



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**Brief Overview of the home as God would have it:**

**Wife is:**

- 1) to receive honor ( 1 Pet. 3:7)**
- 2) to be properly adorned (1 Pet. 3:3-6)**
- 3) the “weaker vessel” (1 Pet. 3:7)**
- 4) keeper at home (Titus 2:5)**
- 5) to be in subjection (1 Pet. 3:1; Eph. 5:22)**

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## Introduction

**Brief Overview of the home as God would have it:**

**Husband is:**

- 1) the primary provider (1 Tim. 5:8)**
- 2) to love the wife as Christ loves His church (Eph. 5:25)**
- 3) the spiritual leader of the family (Eph. 6:4)**
- 4) to nourish and cherish his wife (Eph. 5:29)**

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**Brief Overview of the home as  
God would have it:**

**Both are to be sexually available to  
each other (1 Cor. 7:3-5)**



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**Brief Overview of the home as God would have it:**

**Children:**

- 1) Obedient (Rom. 1:31; Eph. 6:1,2; Col. 3:20)**
- 2) Avoid favoritism (Jacob and Esau)**
- 3) Trained in ways of the Lord (Deut. 6:4-8; 11:19-21)**
- 4) Honor father and mother (Eph. 6:1,2)**

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## Introduction

### Brief Overview of the home as God would have it:

#### Parenting

- 1) Provide love, nurture, caring and set positive examples
- 2) Discipline is done FOR the child not TO the child
- 3) Not all kids are the same (Eph. 6:4 and Col. 3:21)

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## Introduction

**Brief Overview of the home as God would have it:**

**Roles reverse over time (1 Tim. 5:4)**

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**Body – When God's order is disrupted with drunkenness, substance abuse or some other addiction insane patterns emerge.**



# HELP FOR ADDICTED FAMILIES

Brief definition of:



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## Brief definition of Addiction

The alcoholic/addict become dependent on the chemical.

The Family can become addicted to the addict.

Term “co-dependent”

1 in 4 children live in a home where Alcohol is used daily.



# **HELP FOR ADDICTED FAMILIES**

## **Brief definition of Addiction**

**These children are at greater risk for: mental illness, depression, anxiety, mood disorders, health problems, learning difficulties and substance abuse.**

**The equilibrium of family is thrown off by the addiction. However, family learns to live out of balance when the shifting stops. When recovery comes in, the family goes through shifting again until they find a new recovery balance.**

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## Situation:

The addicted one (drug, alcohol, etc) becomes the focus of the family.

I.E. The identified “sick one”. (Eph. 6:2)





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## Situation:

Family becomes “a family of secrets”: don't trust (what does this do to trust in Lord, foundations of love, second guessing everything, etc.), don't feel ('past feeling'), don't tell (hide sins). A family of facades (fakes) – public image vs private chaos (outward appearances vs. inner reality Matt. 23:27, 28)

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## Situation:

Insanity surrounding the addict:

1. Hiding stashes/ finding stashes/looking for stashes
2. Where is he/she?
3. Preoccupation when they are home and when they are away.
4. When we are at home and when we are away.
5. Feelings of guilt and shame, unworthiness
6. Isolation and withdrawal from the familiar
7. Guilt and shame

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## **Situation:**

Family member reactive behaviors: withdrawn, preoccupied, avoid home and family, blues, irritability, denial, increased religious focus, self-neglect, concerns about fidelity to the marriage, emotional emptiness, unhappiness, distrust, lack of sleep, fear that the marriage will break up, polarization on what to do, financial uncertainty, etc.

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## **Situation:**

Periods of sobriety, broken promises, dry drunk, slippery slopes.

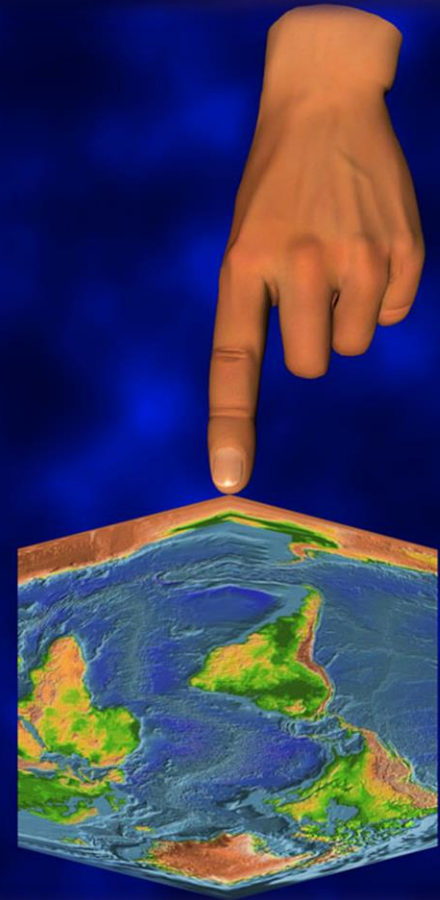
Elephant in the room – no one talks about it.

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## Situation:

Maladaptive roles develop:

1. Enabler
2. Lost child
3. Super hero
4. Mascot
5. Rebel



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## Key Dangers to Remember

- A. We can literally love our addict to death.
- B. We can put our family member above our relationship to God (Matt. 10:37-39)
- C. We can become “partakers in their sins” (1 Tim. 5:22)
- D. Block church attempts to help restore.

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## Key Dangers to Remember

E. Lie for them (Eph. 4:29).

F. Pay their dealer, bond them out, pay their rent, buy them things

G. Make alibis

H. Excuse their actions (2 John 11)

I. Clean up their messes

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## Actions to Help:

We may need to repent of any part we may have played in this:

(Note: Their addiction is not your fault!) ,  
BUT we may have Deception, Bitterness, Evil speaking, Malice, Rage, Resentments, Hatred or other sins to face.)

(Romans 3:14; Eph. 4:21; Eph. 4:31; Gal. 5:20)



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## Actions to Help:

Pray

(your family battle is with Satan)  
(Eph. 6:12)



For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

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## Actions to Help:

Safety first –

If physical, emotional, sexual abuse is happening get out! (1Cor. 7:10,11)

Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife.

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## Actions to Help:

Let the alcoholic/addict experience the logical and natural consequences of their actions  
(Num 32:23; Lk. 15: 11-32)

But if you do not do so, then take note,  
you have sinned against the LORD;  
and be sure your sin will find you out.  
(Num. 32.23)

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## Actions to Help:

Find trusted people who can listen, advise, and encourage you (Titus 2:4)

That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

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## Actions to Help:

Realize that the alcoholic/addict is having an emotional affair

(alcohol or drugs have become “the other woman” or “the other man”). (Eph. 5:22-33)

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## Actions to Help:

The alcoholic/addicts recovery is their recovery

- stop hovering and smothering
- you can't do it for them.

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## Actions to Help:

Set limits on what is allowed in “your house” .  
(Note: Until the pain of the addiction becomes greater than the pleasure of the addiction, the user will remain in their addiction.)

(2 Kings 20:15)

And he said, What have they seen in thine house?  
And Hezekiah answered, All the things that are in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them.

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## Actions to Help:

Make it clear that you will be there for them, but you will not help them kill themselves (Ex. 23:2; 1 Tim. 5:22).

Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.  
(1 Timothy 5:22)



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## Actions to Help:

The single deciding factor on direction of the child on addiction is “a positive mentor”.



# HELP FOR ADDICTED FAMILIES

What is the mission for your family?



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## Conclusion

**A battle rages in homes across our country – within our state – within this town – within this church – within our homes. It is a battle for souls – yours, your husband or wife, your children. Wars are bloody! There are casualties! And, there are victories. Let King Jesus lead your family to a victorious life!**