

The Importance of a Biblical View of Addiction and Using Biblical Language

Hope for Addiction is different in its approach to addressing addiction and this difference translates into every area of ministry to people struggling with addiction. Whatever the culture dictates or presents, we will respond in ways that align with the directives in scripture. We will not use the world's terms but help people to use biblical terms (the Hope for Addiction meeting should use simple terms rather than words not easily understood by an unbeliever or new Christian). Only God's Word has the power to transform a life and change a heart. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).

When we use biblical terminology, biblical words, it will connect us to scripture, which connects us to God, our Creator. Looking for the meaning of biblical words will always lead us to a deeper understanding of ourselves from a biblical perspective, not a worldly perspective. It will always connect us to the hope found in the gospel. The culture's definitions for their words and phrases go a different direction.

Only scripture can affect people at the level they live life – the very "thoughts and intentions" of the heart that ultimately drive our choices and behavior. When we do the hard work of allowing the very words of God to guide our evaluation of ourselves, and help others to the same, the results will be conforming us to Christ.

Our personal insight for each other, our group conversation, our counseling sessions all may be helpful, but none of those words have the power of these words, the words from God. Too often we begin at our own experience and where we can identify together with them and not get them to the Word of God. The Bible must be our priority in caring for one another.

A chart of worldly terms and biblical alternative (the truth) follows...

Establishing a Biblical View of Addiction / Using Biblical Language

Worldly View	Biblical View	Scriptures
Addiction	Slavery, idolatry, lover of pleasure/self rather than lover of God, refuge in something other than God	Jonah 2:8, Colossians 3:5, 2 Peter 2:19, Romans 6, Psalm 16:4, Galatians 5:19-21, Galatians 4:8, Psalm 62:5-7
I'm... an Addict, alcoholic, recovering addict, in recovery	In Christ I am a new creation (addiction is the struggle not the identity), free, no longer a slave	2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:6-7, John 8:36, Galatians 2:20
Normies, People who don't have addiction, Normal people	We are all the same, all in need of rescue from our sin	Romans 5:6-8, Romans 10:10-13, Galatians 3:26-28, Colossians 3:9-11
Recovery	Change or transformation, freedom	2 Corinthians 3:18, 1 Corinthians 6:11, Romans 12:2, Psalm 51:10, Galatians 5:1
Character defect, compulsive behaviors, wrongs, disease, we all make mistakes	Sin and the response of repentance, sin nature	1 John 1:8-10, Acts 3:19, Romans 3:23, Titus 2:11-12, Psalm 51:1-2
Higher Power	Jesus Christ, Who conquered sin and death	Ephesians 1:15-23, Colossians 1:15-17, John 1:1-3
Amends	Forgiveness and reconciliation	Proverbs 28:13, Psalm 32:5, James 5:16, Romans 14:9, Hebrews 12:14, Proverbs 14:9
Moral Compass	Holy Spirit, Word of God	John 14:26, John 16:13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17
Codependent	Fear, idolatry, lack of faith/trust, fear of man, desire to control	2 Timothy 1:7, Proverbs 29:25, Acts 5:29, Deuteronomy 31:6, Proverbs 3:5-8, Hebrews 13:6, Isaiah 12:2
I need to fix this, work harder, do better	God needs to change my heart, I need to see that Christ has dominion over sin	Philippians 2:13, 2 Corinthians 3:5, Philippians 4:7-9, Philippians 1:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:23
Triggers	Temptation	1 Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 4:15
Spiritual Experience	Salvation	Acts 16:31, Acts 2:21, Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:4-5, Romans 10:13
Fake it 'til you make it	Power to obey through Christ, put to death sin nature, walking in obedience and faith despite feelings, not leaning on your own understanding	2 Corinthians 7:9-19, Romans 6:14, Colossians 3, 1 Peter 1:14, Proverbs 3:5-6, 2 Corinthians 5:6-9, Hebrews 11:6
Intervention	Loving confrontation, a call to repentance, bear one another's burdens, a call to follow Jesus	Galatians 6:1-3, Mark 10:17-22, 2 Timothy 2:21-26
Forgive yourself	Rest in, walk in and trust in the forgiveness of Christ secured at the cross	Isaiah 43:25, Ephesians 1:7, Psalm 103:12, Hebrews 10:12-14, Colossians 1:13-14
Tough love	Accountability, Discipline	1 Thessalonians 5:14, Luke 15:11-24
Let go, let God	Disciplined for godliness, we are required to respond: fight, put on, put off, put to death	1 Timothy 4:7, 1 Timothy 6:11-12, Ephesians 6:11, Colossians 3:5-17
Generational curse	Learned behavior, sinful behavior, Christ has dominion	Colossians 1:16, Romans 6:14

CONNECTING THE DESIRE TO CHANGE WITH THE POWER TO CHANGE