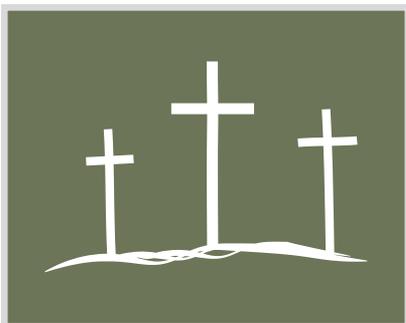
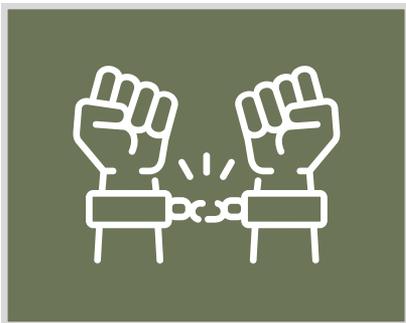
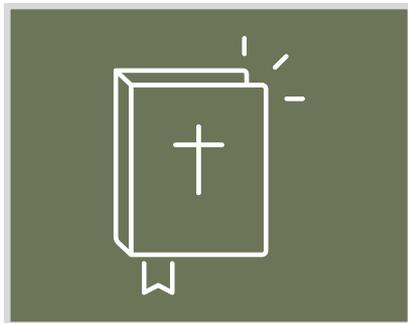




# BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF **BONDAGE AND ADDICTIONS**





## FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

In the Church Ambassador Network, a ministry of the Christian Education League, we hold to the teachings of the Bible that true freedom is solely found in the work and person of Jesus Christ. Through Christ's work on the Cross, and His resurrection three days later, the debt of our sin was paid and the power of sin through death was defeated. That is the reason why He came. Christ provides a way and hope for all who have been impacted by bondage and addictions. As we seek to imitate Christ, it is our heart to see those who have been taken captive set free, and we want to partner with the State of Maine in helping make that a reality for more Mainers.

While addictions and bondage are complex and can involve many genetic, biological, psychosocial, and relational factors, there is also a spiritual dynamic. Thus, the neurobiological and treatment factors of addiction are valid, but we believe it is also important to consider Biblical solutions to bondage and addictions from a holistic perspective.

Addiction, in all its various expressions, results in the formation of spiritual strongholds and spiritual bondage in the lives of addicts. All of us, including addicts, need to find true freedom in and through Jesus Christ.



“THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES AND RECOVERING OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, TO PROCLAIM THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR.”

LUKE 4:18-19



**ADDICTIONS SEEM INNOCENT IN THE BEGINNING, AS THEY PROMISE LIFE AND ENTERTAINMENT. HOWEVER, THEY END IN BONDAGE AND THE LOSS OF CONTROL OF ONE'S OWN LIFE.**

All addictions start the same. They promise life and entertainment, and at first they provide a sense of that. This makes people want to go back and bring their friends along too. Vices seem harmless and cheap at first, and it all begins with a choice. But over time, that once-innocent choice becomes an addiction. Now, though some may desire to quit, they can't. They keep going back for more, even against their own will. The addictions are no longer entertaining, life-giving, or cheap. They now cost the addicts everything, including their time, resources, physical health and relationships.



“EVERYTHING IS PERMISSIBLE FOR ME,’ BUT NOT EVERYTHING IS HELPFUL. ‘EVERYTHING IS PERMISSIBLE FOR ME,’ BUT I WILL NOT BE BROUGHT UNDER THE CONTROL OF ANYTHING.”

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12



## **ADDICTIONS AND BONDAGE COME AT A VERY HIGH COST FOR THE INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY.**

Not only do addictions come at a financial or time cost, they also come at a great relational cost, which is the greatest cost of them all. Over time, addicts lose marriages, parental rights, and friendships. Those costs that were once only a personal cost now come at a great cost to the families and communities as well.



“BUT EACH PERSON IS TEMPTED WHEN HE IS DRAWN AWAY AND ENTICED BY HIS OWN EVIL DESIRE. THEN AFTER DESIRE HAS CONCEIVED, IT GIVES BIRTH TO SIN, AND WHEN SIN IS FULLY GROWN, IT GIVES BIRTH TO DEATH.”

JAMES 1:14-15



## **ADDICTIONS AND BONDAGE REQUIRE BROKENNESS AND INTERVENTION IN ORDER TO BE SET FREE.**

It is very difficult to help those who neither want help nor desire to change. In the Scriptures, salvation follows repentance and recognition of a need of a Savior. Repentance is pulling a 180. It is recognizing our wrongs and wanting to do right. Being set free from addiction requires a humble, repentant spirit with a desire to change.



“IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST AND WILL FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND PURIFY US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.”

JOHN 1:9



## THE LAW IS A TOOL AND GUIDE TO PROTECT PEOPLE FROM BONDAGE AND ADDICTIONS.

The law cannot save people, nor can it eliminate wrong behavior. The law is not, and must not be, the final solution. However, it must be a part of it. The law has been used as a tool to serve and assist people for generations. Laws will never eradicate addictions, but they can guide people away from addictions and offer protection from those who desire to bring others into that bondage. Laws must continue to help people break free from their addictions and, more importantly, protect them from ever getting addicted in the first place.



“THE LAW, THEN, WAS OUR GUARDIAN UNTIL CHRIST, SO THAT WE COULD BE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH.”

GALATIANS 3:24

“WHAT SHOULD WE SAY THEN? IS THE LAW SIN? ABSOLUTELY NOT! BUT I WOULD NOT HAVE KNOWN SIN IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE LAW.”

ROMANS 7:7



## OPPRESSORS WANT TO KEEP PEOPLE IN BONDAGE.

Oppression is when someone intentionally uses power and authority to keep others under their control. A lot of money can be made off of those who are addicted. They are guaranteed repeat customers who do not require clever marketing schemes or good service to maintain business.

The first sale is all it takes, and they are sold for life. Companies or individuals who make money from seductive products have a vested interest in keeping people addicted.



“LEARN TO DO GOOD; SEEK JUSTICE, CORRECT OPPRESSION; BRING JUSTICE TO THE FATHERLESS, PLEAD THE WIDOW'S CAUSE.”

ISAIAH 1:17

“WHOEVER OPPRESSES THE POOR TO INCREASE HIS OWN WEALTH, OR GIVES TO THE RICH, WILL ONLY COME TO POVERTY.”

PROVERBS 22:16



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