

Is Your Child Is Addicted? Yes!

I. What is Addiction?

- Merriam-Webster defines *addicted* as “a: having a compulsive physiological need for a habit forming substance **b** : strongly inclined or compelled to do, use, or indulge in something repeatedly.”
- Ken Collier said, there are “Just *two* choices on the shelf, pleasing God or pleasing self.” If your child worships his own way over God’s way, then he’s going to seek for pleasure and satisfaction in anything that makes him feel the way he wants to feel. And if he achieves the feeling he’s looking for, why wouldn’t he return to thing that caused the good feeling?
- So, the first and biggest addiction that every human — regardless of age, sex, or nationality — is going to struggle with, is an addiction to self.
- The Bible says in Daniel 11:37, “*He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all.*”
- We are our own habit forming substance. We are daily inclined and compelled to indulge in our own Failure Philosophies instead of God’s divine Word. My friends, all addictions start with an addiction to self, and your child is addicted.
- All other addictions are merely secondary addictions used to feed our flesh.

II. How Do We Spot Secondary Addictions?

- A Core Symptom of all addiction is *preoccupation*.
 - About what are your children always talking? On what do they spend their money? With what things is their entertainment filled? Addicts talk about their addictions. They surround themselves with people who talk about their addictions and songs that sing about their addictions. They live for the pleasure their sacrifice gives them, and they would dedicate their entire existence to it if they could.
 - But remember, a preoccupation with good things is also a problem. Some children are addicted to performing well in school. Some kids have a preoccupation with cleanliness. And though they may sound like a delightful thing, many kids work hard in sports and school simply because they want to beat someone else, prove themselves to their parents, or conquer in their own strength.
- A Peripheral Symptom of all addictions is *transformation*. Any time we change our self-sacrifices, there has to be a requisite change in other areas of our lives. It’s going to affect the way we talk, it’s going to affect our money, it’s going to affect the people with whom we choose to hang out, our goals, our behavior, our relationships, our everything.

III. Recap

- First, we all struggle with an addiction to self.
- Second, self-addiction always exhibits itself in secondary addictions. These addictions can be culturally acceptable and unacceptable.
- Third, the secondary addictions are the sacrifices our children offer to themselves as they worship themselves.
- Fourth, when trying to determine an addiction, look for the Core Symptom of preoccupation.
- Fifth, look for significant transformation.
- Sixth, and finally, seek help. More often than not we miss the indicators because they evolve so slowly and quietly.