

## ALCOHOL AND DRUG DEPENDENCE TWELVE – SUBSTITUTIONS FOR GOD Copyright 2024, Paul F Spite

**(This is based on belief in God. If that offends you, stop reading now)**

This last presentation explores a search that may be a root cause of substance abuse.

Suppose you craved chocolate and I gave you something that looked and tasted like chocolate? You might eat it and be sure I had indeed given you chocolate. Unless I showed you that what I had given you, was actually a substance called “carob.”

Carob is a powder or fine flour ground from a locust bean, naturally sweet and low in fat, with no caffeine. It has a flavor like, and substitutes for, chocolate without its characteristic bitterness. Usually found only in health food stores, it is a basically nonnutritive flavoring. Carob has two thirds the calories of cocoa and more carbohydrates, but less protein and fat.

Carob is fine, if you’ve never tasted chocolate, but ... if I let you taste carob, then gave you Hershey’s chocolate, I doubt you’d want any more carob. Hershey’s tastes pretty good and a great deal better than carob. And it’s pretty good chocolate, unless you taste a really fine gourmet chocolate. And once you’ve tasted that, you’d throw rocks at carob. (To be continued)

### **General Drug and Alcohol Abuse**

We are told by God, no man yet ever hated his own flesh. If we use drugs, we have to somehow believe we will get more from the drug than it will take from us. The two most common reasons given for substance abuse are; it will bring me pleasure or let me escape a reality that has become unbearable. But there may be yet another, perhaps better answer. An idea began growing in my mind after I asked a young addict why he once used crack cocaine.

He said he used crack ‘for the rush.’ I asked what that meant. It was a really great feeling lasting 3-5 minutes, before wearing off. So I asked again. Crack is a relatively cheap drug, with a short lived but intense high, that doesn’t physically addict its users, only psychologically. So why didn’t everyone use it? In fact, why did he not still use it? His reply was intriguing. Using crack scared him, by also produced an ugly change in personality that lasted for hours. I was a little dense. What he said was terribly significant, but I missed it the first time around.

Let me describe using crack cocaine, then a depressant to bring the user back down. Life is stressing me and I want to escape for a while. I use a little crack cocaine for the rush. The euphoria is intense for about 3-5 minutes. The personality change afterwards is unnerving, but worth it for the rush. Afterwards, I take a depressant to chill out, making me feel at peace again. I know I still have problems, but they can wait. Right now, I want to enjoy feeling so relaxed and stress free.

Turns out I have a basic need that such an experience can fill. Let me rephrase that sequence, but this time, disassociated from using drugs.

Life is stressing me out and I want to escape from it for a while. I begin an activity that builds up tension slowly. It culminates in a buzz, an intense burst of pleasure lasting for a few minutes. Afterwards, I feel incredibly relaxed and at peace, with a change in my behavior that lasts for hours if not longer. I know I still have problems, but they can wait. Right now, I want to enjoy feeling so relaxed and stress free.

Ladies and gentlemen, I just described the experience of having sex. Why such a similarity? Can that really be a coincidence?

Let's talk about the whole sexual experience for a minute, from a Biblical perspective. To find out what happens when a man and woman do that, we start in the Book of Beginnings, in Genesis 2:18. Everything God had made had been good up till then. How did God know it wasn't good for man to be alone? Was He speaking from experience? Why did He make man different from the other animals in the first place? The "help meet" in the tenth verse is also translated as a "completer." No animal could complete Adam, created in the image or likeness of God. There was no void in existence between Adam or any other animal, that either had the capability to complete. So God took out one of Adam's ribs, to fashion into a woman. Man was now missing a part that only woman could complete. They would forever fit together like a puzzle. And since one was part of the other, they would remain incomplete till rejoined together.

In Genesis 4:1, there is no doubt what is described when Adam "knew" his wife and she became pregnant. The word "knew" is intriguing, implying the most complete our knowledge will be of anyone, is when we make love to them, an act accompanied by a terrible honesty. We recognize that by referring to sex with the words, "carnal knowledge." A transfer of soul seems to take place when men and women come together. The man becomes gentler and more compassionate, till his basic nature reasserts itself. The woman becomes bolder and more assertive, till her basic nature reasserts itself.

With repeated joining, the two begin to act alike, think alike, say the same things, complete one another's thoughts and may even grow to look alike. They become one combined person or soul, with two bodies, complete in one another. When two have been married for a long time and one dies, the other sometimes just dies in a few days, for no reason. They are missing half of themselves and no longer wish to live. If true, then we can casually obtain part of someone's soul inside us, that will stay there forever. Promiscuity carries more danger than STDs.

Let me rephrase that sequence, but this time, disassociated from either drugs or sex. Life is stressing me out and I want to escape it for a while. I begin an activity that builds up tension slowly. It culminates in a buzz, an intense burst of pleasure lasting for a few minutes. Afterwards, I feel incredibly relaxed and at peace, with a change in my behavior that lasts for hours if not longer. I know I still have problems, but they can wait. Right now, I want to enjoy feeling so relaxed and stress free.

Ladies and gentlemen, for those who've never felt that, I just described beginning to worship God and receiving the Holy Ghost, or having God refill me with His Spirit, time and time again. Can that really be a coincidence?

Remember when I said God may have been speaking from experience when He said, "It is not good for man to be alone." According to Psalms 139:7-12, whatever God wants from us, He is a persistent suitor. He never stops trying to reconnect with us or pursuing us to make us His own. Why? What does He want?

What if it is similar to what we seek, from those to whom we join ourselves? Scripture makes it clear God wants an eternal companion for Himself. A "bride" is God's name for the church He is returning to claim. What does that have to do with the sexual experience?

In Genesis 2:7, God breathed into man, and man became a living soul. Something was removed from God to be used in the making of the man. God gave up a part of himself that only we can complete, to forever fit together like a puzzle. How do we fit together?

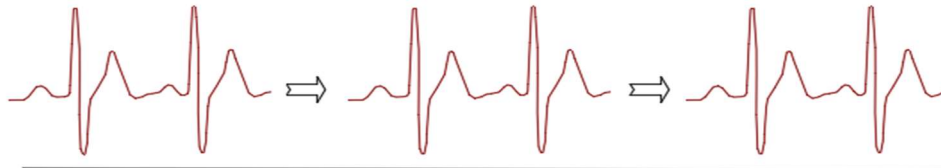
What makes me think this completion occurs? In Matthew 7:23, God uses "knew" this way. "I will profess to them, I never **knew** you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. It's the same word used when Adam **knew** his wife, before she conceived. It describes an intimate relationship with God, in a quest for some kind of completion. We also seek to fill a spiritual void within, in many ways and religious practices. No true happiness or completion can be found

apart from God. When God enters us, we exchange part of our spirit for part of the Holy Ghost, also called the Prince of Peace? Per John 14:27, that incredible feeling of peace remains with us.

When we allow God to inhabit us, we are more like God afterwards. Not tempted by much and far more compassionate and loving. Until our basic nature reasserts itself. The oftener we allow God inside, the more like Him we become. We may eventually look like Him, talk like Him and think like Him. If we want an intimate relationship with God, He is literally hanging around, waiting to enter and complete us. According to Colossians 2:10, to complete us again.

### **A Practical Application:**

The lines below illustrate slow build-ups in encounters with drugs, sex and with God, to intense and short bursts of pleasure. Each produces a lull afterwards and a change in behavior lasting for a while afterwards. This occurs almost exactly the same way in each experience.



It is also no coincidence that our heartbeats, that sustain our lives, take the same shape. Patterns are the sign of intelligence. It's like the most intelligent being among us was at work.

### **The Rest of the Story**

Considering similarities between these experiences, I have come to believe this. We were originally designed as both flesh and spirit, able to join with the Spirit of God and somehow complete Him and be complete in Him. It was the ultimate point to our creation as a companion for God. It is the experience that satisfies us most completely and the deepest. It is at the core of all of our searching for fulfillment.

Because we are also flesh and tend to be lonely in that aspect, God designed a fleshly act of completion we call 'sex.' It is also possible He created it to whet our appetite in this life, and learn to love and develop a craving for an ultimate spiritual union with God. Sex is really nice and fills a need. It is just not the ultimate experience.

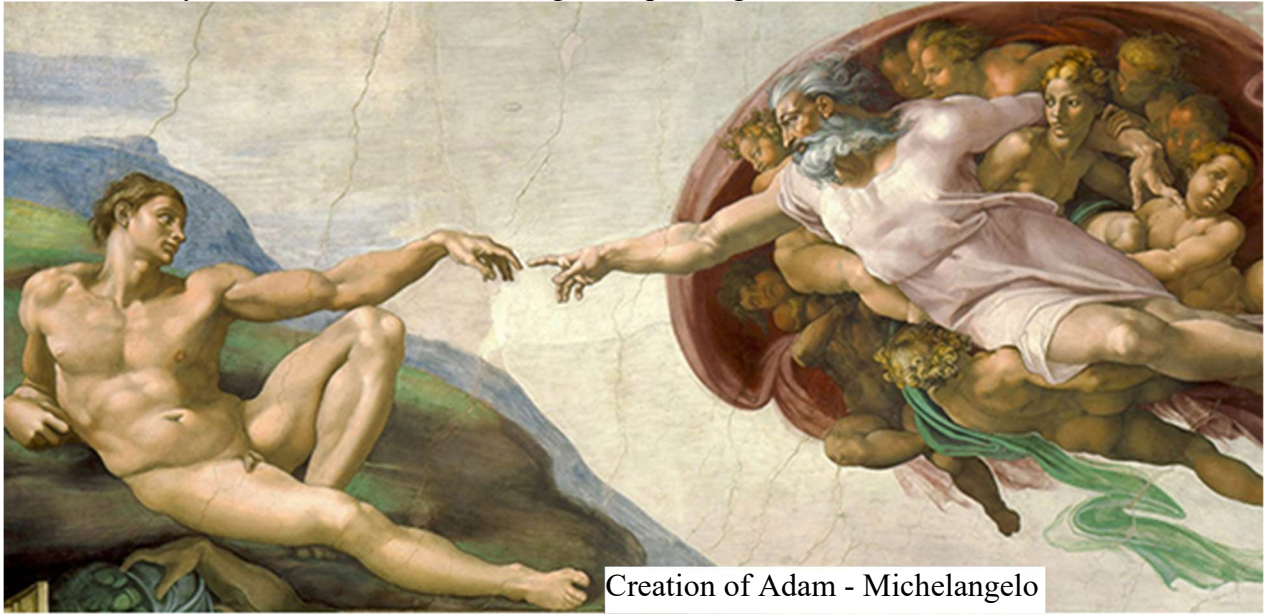
We were created with a woman shaped hole in the soul of every man and a God shaped hole in the spirit of every man. To be complete, body, soul and spirit, we must eventually be truly joined under God, to one woman, and be truly joined through the Holy Spirit, to God. And we can. That is the gospel, which means, that is the good news.

I mentioned earlier that there were three levels of chocolate, available to satisfy our craving for whatever drug must be in so addictive a food. Let me make this comparison.

The very fine gourmet chocolate mentioned, equates to receiving the Holy Ghost. It just doesn't get any better than that. In that experience, we join spirit to Spirit with God and what transfers is His Spirit into us. Hershey's equates to a sexual relationship. If I can't get the great chocolate, it's still pretty good. In that experience, we join body to body and what transfers is soul. Using drugs equates to carob. We seek to fill emptiness inside, but absolutely nothing transfers, nothing is completed and we wind up seeking for more and more.

The truth is, if we would taste of God, afterwards we would throw rocks at drugs. Perhaps that is why in Psalms 34:8, we are instructed to taste and see, that the Lord is good. That way, we could save time in our search for something to satisfy our deep desires.

I read once that addiction was giving up everything else for one thing. But recovery was giving up one thing in return for everything else. If that's too hard alone, I promise you. God is more than willing to help us regain the life He created for us.



Creation of Adam - Michelangelo