

## The Numbers Are High by Carl McMurray

- ⇒ 60% of adults cannot carry on a conversation for 10 minutes without lying. <sup>1</sup>
- ⇒ 14% (34.3 million) currently smoke accounting for 480,000+ deaths per year.
- ⇒ 55.9% of those surveyed said they had drunk alcohol in the past month. <sup>2</sup>
- ⇒ 30 million people of all ages suffer from eating disorders in the US.
- ⇒ 5.8% people fall prey to a compulsive buying disorder. <sup>3</sup>
- ⇒ 2-3% of Americans are affected by a gambling addiction. <sup>4</sup>
- ⇒ 18 million people have misused prescription drugs in the last year. <sup>5</sup>
- ⇒ 2.1 million Americans have an opioid use disorder, and about 5% of these will try heroin.
- ⇒ 494,000 Americans over the age of 12 are regular heroin users.
- ⇒ 4 million individuals over the age of 12, in 2016, were estimated to be addicted to pot.<sup>6</sup>

The above figures represent tragedies in the making, and they don't even include such addictions as cutting, pornography, gaming, workaholism, fear, anxiety, anger, bitterness, laziness, or social media. The Scriptures teach in 1 Cor. 6:12, *"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything.*

We are living in a godless secular culture and the devil has blinded a high percentage of the population into the hopelessness and emptiness of such a culture. He has presented multiplied distractions to us that have the power to master our lives, dominate our heart, and overcome our spirituality. Any repeated behavior that causes a problem in our personal or professional or spiritual life is an addiction. Any addiction or habit or character trait that comes between us and the Lord is sinful.

There is a group of passionate Christians that meet each Tuesday evening at 7 to study what the Bible says about throwing off the cords Satan binds us with. As well, we 1) consider the recovery methodology that is currently being used to defeat repeat addiction, 2) watch videos and discuss the latest ideas concerning brain health and good decision making, and 3) are presently developing our own step system to aid those who are committed to letting the Lord lead them out of bondage.

**This Tuesday evening at 7 we will be having a special speaker, Jenny Bronger, from Lafayette, IN. Jenny has her degrees in Addiction Counseling and Family Counseling and works with Art Adams professionally. Her husband Dwayne has preached for us several times. If you have any questions about this subject it would be a good evening to attend.**

If you wrestle with addiction and want your life back to give to God, come join with us. Don't allow anything to master you except THE MASTER of creation.

1. 2002 Study conducted by the University of Massachusetts 2. Survey by the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2017 3. American Journal of Psychiatry 4. Medicine Net; Roxanne Dryden-Edwards MD 5. Survey by the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2017 6. Substance abuse and Mental Health Services Administration