



Hope in Healing

Finding Freedom in Jesus Christ.



**If you, or someone you know, is
dealing with alcoholism and in
need of assistance, please contact
us for more information or to
make a counseling appointment.**

Janet K. Cook, Ph.D.

River of Life Community Church

2626 Prairie Street, Elkhart, IN 46517

574-522-2114 www.GodsRiver.com

ALCOHOLISM

“Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.”

- Proverbs 20:1

“Listen to advice and accept instruction and in the end you will be wise.”

- Proverbs 19:20

“Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly! In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper.”

- Proverbs 23:31-32

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

- 1 Corinthians 10:13

Is Alcoholism a Disease?

If It Is.....

It is the only disease that
Is contracted by an act of the will.

It is the only disease that
Is habit forming.

It is the only disease that
The source is bottled and sold.

It is the only disease that
Is spread by advertising.

It is the only disease that
Produces a revenue for the
government.

It is the only disease that
Provokes crime.

It is the only disease that
Kills millions on the highways.

It is the only disease that
Results in an arrest and
imprisonment.

It is the only disease that
The Bible calls a sin!

**Could it be that it's
not a disease at all?**

- *original source unknown*

The Alcoholic

No one really knows why a person becomes an alcoholic. The thought someone has the first time they drink alcohol is not, “I want to be an alcoholic”. The first drink is usually taken to impress peers and to fulfill expectations that drinking is fun and glamorous. As the alcohol levels rise early in a drinking episode, a person will become extraverted, talkative, and content. As a person gets hooked on alcohol the original reasons for drinking soon disappear. The alcohol that once made a person feel powerful, in control, and energetic soon becomes a need. As the need for alcohol is satisfied other areas of a person's life will suffer, such as broken relationships, declining health, financial failure and the loss of a job. The person begins to be held in the bondage of addiction.

It is estimated that one out of every ten people will become an alcoholic and will be unable to stop drinking on their own. Their problems may not be solved in a month or a year, but God is able to do exceedingly more than we ask.

God's Healing Word

First of all the alcoholic must realize they are powerless. On their own, the alcoholic is unable to control or manage their life. “Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Second, they can become a new creation in Christ Jesus as they take control of their life. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Next, they must face the reality that there are weaknesses, character defects and sin that God wants to reveal in their life. “Search me O God and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23-24).

Accept God's forgiveness! If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins” (1 John 1:8-9).

Keys to Freedom

Realize the alcoholic is drinking to cope with emotional pain.

Realize the alcoholic is drinking to camouflage the pain of reality.

Realize the alcoholic is probably feeling shame and guilt.

Realize no temptation has seized anyone except what is common to man.

Realize God is faithful.

Realize God will not let anyone be tempted above what s/he is able to bear.

Realize God will provide a way of escape from temptation.

Realize God will make the person able to stand up under it.