

Seminar

Addictive Personalities



Ste Casey

*"You have made us for yourself, O Lord,
and our heart is restless until it rests in
you"*

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The Experience

"To make me feel better when I don't think anything can or will"

"I want to live in a world where I only feel good and in control"

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Held by a hijacked/surrendered Identity

Identity Issues are the occasion to turn to enslaving habits.

Identity Issues compound out of enslaving habits.

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Gaming

Matt had aspirational parents, whose approval was tied to academic success. When the pressure grew around exam time, Matt rested a lot in gaming. Procrastination ensued, motivation was harder, which led to guilt, which led to more gaming and less studying.

Having failed his exams, and disappointing his parents, his life is on hold. Any attempt to change has a potential for failure. "What's the point" he says, and then retreats into his escapism, where he enjoys success. He knows he has a problem, but feels paralysed. He only feels alive in the world of online gaming.

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Telling the story of addictions

Romans 1v25

"They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped, and served created things rather than the Creator – who is forever praised."

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Who you are

- ~ Defined by what you have done - "I am my failures"
- ~ I'm in a different category – "I am different"
- ~ I can't come near - "I am my shame"

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Who's are

- ~ I am in servitude - "I have to obey"
- ~ I am dependant - "I need to obey"
- ~ I am trapped - "I love it"

A counter claim – a new identity

Romans 6v5-14

How has being made alive to God in Christ (v.11) overcome the damage of Romans 1. Who are you, and Who's are you?

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A Case study in Rob

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Initial impressions – identity the occasion for addiction, or a compounded outcome of addiction?

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Rob - 1 (I am my performance)

"I'm an addict"

"It feels worse to accept forgiveness and then mess up again."

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Rob - 2 (I am all about me)

"I am insane"

"I worship, serve feeling good about myself, its all my ego"

What does Jesus do with disappointments?

Phil 3v7-8 (Make it personal)

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Rob - 3 (I am my shame)

"I wish I didn't pray this prayer"

"It's a pride thing, it's embarrassing"

"It's who I am in their eyes."

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Rob – 4 (Am I really a new creation?)

"I really don't want to be Gomer"

~ "At least I'm not..."

~ "I'm improving..."

Rob – 5 (I need to hide, and not boast)

"There is grace for everyone but me"

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