



Jesus Loves the Addict: Freedom and Forgiveness

Romans 6:16- 18

"Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness."

In the book of Romans, the apostle Paul eloquently emphasises the limitless love and grace of Jesus Christ towards all individuals, including those engulfed in the grip of addiction. Romans 6:16 captures the essence of Jesus' love for addicts, providing them with the transformative power of freedom and forgiveness. Through an exploration of this powerful biblical verse, in this lesson we will delve into the depths of Jesus' compassion, the freedom available for addicts, and the vital role of forgiveness in the process of redemption.

The Concept of Addiction

Addiction is complex and leaves millions of individuals feeling helpless and lost. Whether it be substance abuse or other compulsive behaviours. Addiction shackles the mind, body, and soul. Recognising this struggle, Jesus lovingly extends His hand to addicts, offering us a way out of bondage.

The Boundless Love of Jesus

Jesus' love knows no bounds, extending to the darkest depths of our human suffering. Jesus' relentless love is not deterred by the scars left by addiction; instead, He passionately pursues those caught in the clutches of dependency, reminding them that their worth is not defined by their addiction, but rather by His unconditional love and grace.

True Beauty comes when we fully surrender our lives to Him. Who is Jesus Christ? Many people will acknowledge Jesus Christ as a good man, a great teacher, or even a prophet of God. These things are definitely true of Jesus, but they do not fully define who He truly is.

Finding Freedom in Christ

Romans 6:16 reminds us that we have been offered the life-changing gift of freedom through our faith in Jesus. By surrendering our lives and struggles to Christ, we can experience liberation from the chains of addiction. In Him, we will discover the strength to overcome our temptations and replace old habits with new, healthy practices.

Guilt and Shame

We already know that addiction causes unending cycles of guilt and shame that leaves us feeling trapped and unworthy of forgiveness. The good news is that Jesus offers an escape from this cycle by granting us the opportunity for a **fresh start**. His love and mercy will and can wash away our past mistakes and enable us to embrace forgiveness as we strive for a better future.

Forgiveness as a Gateway to Healing

Forgiveness serves as a vital component of recovering from addiction. Romans 6:16 reminds us that we are forgiven through our faith in Jesus, but it also compels us to extend this forgiveness to ourselves, our loved ones friends and others who may have been affected by our actions. The process of forgiveness will allow us to heal emotionally and restore broken relationships. Without forgiveness and surrender, chasing sobriety will be like chasing the wind.

Redeeming Broken Lives through Jesus

Addiction always leaves a trail of brokenness. However, through Jesus' love, those who were once lost in the depths of addiction can find redemption. Romans 6:16 assures us that we can experience restoration and renewal, leaving behind the brokenness of the past and embracing a transformed and purposeful future. I don't say this lightly, but I am living proof that Jesus' Redeeming love can mend us.

Support and Community

Recovering from addiction requires substantial support from various networks. Jesus' love extends through the people around addicts, who can serve as pillars of strength and encouragement. Surrounding yourself with a Christ-centred and supportive community will play a significant role in your recovery journey.

Cultivating a Relationship with Jesus

Romans 6:16 encourages us to nurture a personal relationship with Jesus. By seeking Him and deepening our understanding of His love and teachings, we can find peace, strength, and guidance throughout the recovery process. Connecting with Jesus provides a steadfast foundation for long-term freedom and healing.

The Promise of Eternal Life

Finally, Romans 6:16 reminds us that our faith in Jesus offers the ultimate reward: eternal life. This promise provides hope, as we will not only experience freedom and forgiveness in this life but also look forward to an eternity spent in the presence of Jesus, free from the bondage of addiction.

Conclusion:

Jesus' infinite love for addicts transcends the depths of their struggles, offering the transformative power of freedom and forgiveness. Through Romans 6:16, addicts can find hope, healing, and a renewed sense of purpose. By embracing Jesus' love and grace, addicts can break free from addiction's chains and embark on a lifelong journey of freedom and redemption.