# TABOO THREE:

## Return of the Elephant



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## Return of the Elephant



# REVIEW

- Disagreement is OK, come have a conversation
- Pester the Pastor returns
- Planned over a year ago

# The Questions

- With the legalization of Marijuana (Cannabis) can Christians smoke weed?
- Can Christians drink alcohol and if so how much is too much?
- How do I know if something is prohibited if scripture does not specifically address it?
- How do I know if I am addicted?



# The Questions (Simplified)

- Can I do it?
- How much can I do it?
- Am I addicted?



# Can I do it?

- Is it sin?



# Galatians 5:19-21

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident:
sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20
idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of
anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy,
**drunkenness,** orgies, and things like these.



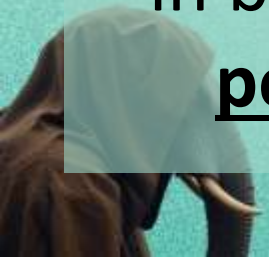
# 1 Timothy 5:23

23 No longer drink only water, **but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach** and your frequent ailments.



# Proverbs 31:4-7

4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, **it is not for kings to drink wine,** or for rulers to take strong drink, 5 lest they drink and **forget what has been decreed** and pervert the rights of all the afflicted. 6 **Give strong drink to the one who is perishing,** and wine to those in bitter distress; 7 let them drink and **forget their poverty** and remember their misery no more.



# Can I do it?

- Is it sin?
- Is it illegal?



# Romans 13:1-2

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. **For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.** 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.



# Bold Statement #1

**If it is illegal and not commanded by God, it is sin!**

# Can I do it?

- Is it sin?
- Is it illegal?
- Is it good for me?



# 1 Corinthians 5:19-20

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.



# 1 Corinthians 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.



# How much can I do it?

- Sola dosis facit venenum – Paracelsus (16th century)
- Personal
- Prayer and Counsel
- Warnings



# Proverbs 6:27

Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?



# 1 Peter 5:8

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.



# Proverbs 20:1

Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.



# Galatians 5:1

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.



# Am I addicted?

- Who is in control?



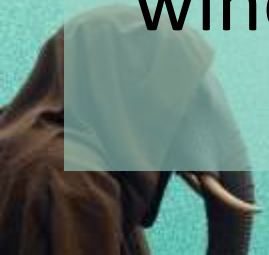
# Isaiah 5:11

Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may run after strong drink, who tarry late into the evening as wine inflames them!



# Ephesians 5:15-18

15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,



# Am I addicted?

- Who is in control?
- What am I sacrificing?



# Am I addicted?

- Who is in control?
- What am I sacrificing?
- Do I need it?



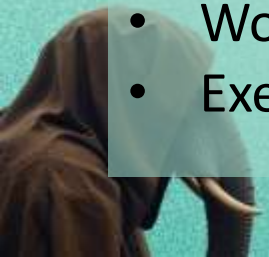
# Bold Statement #2

**Anything you need, that is not Jesus, is an addiction!**

# Common Addictions

- Alcohol
- Nicotine
- Marijuana
- Opioids
- Pornography/Sex
- Gambling
- Shopping
- Food
- Work
- Exercise

- Comfort/Safety
- Control
- Anger
- Social Media
- Smartphone
- Caffeine
- Sleep
- The thing I forgot but you know



# What if I am addicted?

- There is hope



# 1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.



# What if I am addicted?

- There is hope
- Prayer and community
- There is no shame in seeking help!



# SO WHAT?

- We will never conquer our addictions without the gospel
- One of the hardest things to do is see our own addictions
- Everyone needs help!

# TIME OF GIVING

Online giving is also available on our church website, **www.westmiddlebury.org**, and on our Tithely app.



Offering boxes are
available at both entrances.

2 Corinthians 9:7