

SMOKING

I'm going to step on some toes today but we need to hear this type of message in the church. Smoking is a sin against God. Just so no one tries to slide by on a technicality, smoking includes vaping also. It may not be exactly the same as smoking but it will damage your body just the same.



A lot of young people today smoke because they think it's cool or makes them look sexy. Smoking used to be accepted everywhere and then information began to come out more and more about how unhealthy it is. We learned about how it causes cancer and even puts other people's health at risk, not just the smoker. Second hand smoke damages those around you. Scott and I learned how damaging smoking is to young children when we had Kennedy. If they are around smokers it can give them asthma. My dad had already quit smoking by then. I think he learned that lesson from my oldest brother because he wasn't bringing his kids around and my dad wanted to see his grandkids. I remember sitting on my dad's lap and thinking it was fun to light his cigarettes. There I was smoking with my dad because I was breathing all that in too.



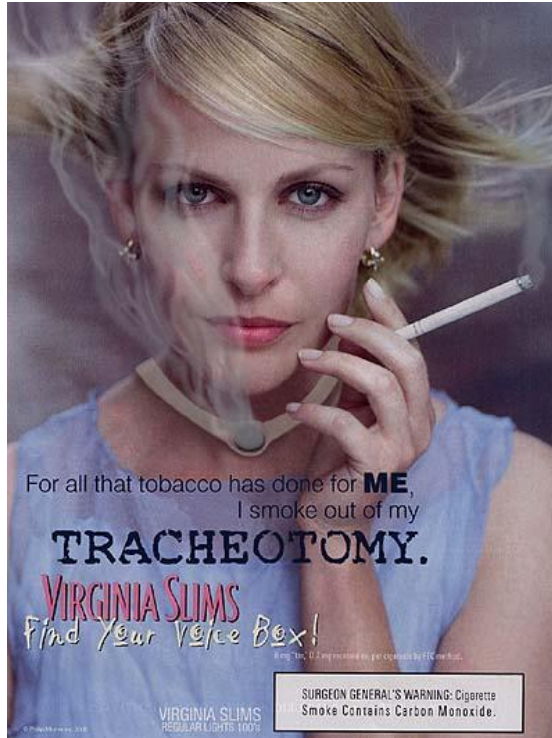
This is a more realistic picture of a smoker. Smoking their way to death.



Smoking yellows and stains the teeth. Many people bleach their teeth now which will cause its own set of problems.



When you smoke all the time, it stains the fingers. My dad smoked for about 50 years of his life and he had those kind of stained fingers.



For all that tobacco has done for me, I smoke out of my tracheotomy. Virginia Slims – find your voice box! I'm not sure which way they are trying to spin this, but you do not want to look like this woman with smoke coming out of your neck, that's not cool or sexy. This woman is a die hard smoker completely in satan's hands.



I've recently seen this woman on tv commercials. The bottom picture shows her with a plug in the hole in her neck. When she talks it pops in and out. When you get to this point you sound scary. Some people have those little devices that they hold over the hole in their neck in order to talk and they sound like a robot. You don't want any of this. Usually smoking will give a woman a deeper voice.



Smoking prematurely ages the lips with wrinkle lines.



This is Pastor Erustus and his wife Pastor Sarah. Pastor Erustus heads up our outreach ministry in Africa. He had quite a lot to share on this subject.

Looking deeply smoking has no positive benefits to one's body but only negative results. Smoking destroys a person's health hence smoking is dangerous to one's body. It harms one's lungs making one's body health worse and finally cuts one's life. Nothing good comes from smoking. There may not be a specific scripture in the Bible on smoking but looking at its results in one's life, obviously it's a sin.

Smoking destroys the dwelling place of God which is our bodies. The Holy Spirit needs a sacred place to dwell but smoking opens doors for even other evil addictions and diseases to come in. We cannot serve God in such a state of our weakened bodies through smoking.

Romans 6:13 – Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God.

That means we do not present the parts of our bodies to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and present the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness.

Pastor continued: I believe when we smoke it's an opening of presenting our body parts as instruments of sin. When we take in things that destroy the organs in our bodies that God created to make us healthy and strong in order to serve Him here on earth, I believe it displeases Him and He can even destroy a person. God is

patient but if one does not change and stop smoking, God will have enough of the person.

These next verses pertain to drinking, smoking, drugs and any sin that tears your body down.

1 Cor.3:16 - Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile (destroys) the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are.

God created you as a wonderful creation of His to know Him and bring Him glory. God has good plans for our lives (**Jer.29:11, Eph.2:10**) When you purposely do things like smoke and drink you are tearing down His creation, you are going against His will for your life. He can decide enough is enough and go ahead and tear you down and take you out Himself.

There is no profit in any way from smoking.

1 Corinthians 6:12 - All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient (profitable): all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

Romans 6:16 - Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Smoking is not profitable and Apostle Paul reminds us here that we are not to be held in addictions to anything. You become the slave of whatever you choose to obey. I remember once when Scott shared that he had been getting up in the middle of the night to eat oreo cookies. He said he stopped because he told himself that he was not going to be a slave to those cookies.

Pastor went on: You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. Smoking kills and mainly causes lung cancer. I believe smoking is slow suicide. You murder yourself slowly. Is it profitable in any way? No. Is it profitable to one's health, your salvation, faith, family, finances. I don't think so.

Smoking is not profitable in a christian's life, but someone is profiting, and his name is satan. He wants to tear your life down and profit off of you at the same time.

Americans spend **\$80 billion** on cigarettes per year, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Thurber said many of his clients spend about \$70 a week, or \$280 a month, on packs of cigarettes. May 18, 2011



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Americans spend \$ 80 billion on cigarettes per year, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Thurber said many of his clients spent about \$ 70 a week, or \$ 280 a month, on packs of cigarettes. That information was from 2011. Can you imagine what it is now – because – cigarettes have gotten even more expensive since then.



My mom used to gripe at my dad telling him that he was just burning up his money on cigarettes. You know what, that's true. As Christians, all that we have comes from God. We are accountable to Him about what we do with what He blesses us with. We are to be good stewards with God's provision and blessing in our lives. We will give an account for how we used what He gave us. Don't burn your money up like this.

Romans 14:13 - Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in *his* brother's way.

Smoking stumbles others, and like parents, Pastors, leaders can cause your children or your followers to stumble.

1 Corinthians 8:9 - But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak.

We don't want our children or anyone we hold influence over to get caught up in these evil addictions. They watch our lives, let's not be at fault for causing them to stumble.

1 Thessalonians 5:22 – Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Smoking appears as evil thus the bible warns us to abstain from such.

Pastor Erustus also said that demons are behind smoking. He said, Many a times have done deliverance and demons have said the victim was pushed into drinking and smoking so his money can just be wasted and to destroy the person's life. Demons are in play in people who smoke and drink. Demons are behind any kind of addiction not only drinking and smoking but even to addictions like sex, pornography, drugs etc.

Addiction is a stronghold. I can say strongholds are satanic evil spiritual grips that holds up ones soul ie the mind (thinking), emotions (feeling) and the will (choosing) that causes or influences ones soul to act against God's will.

Addiction is dependence on a substance or habit, either physically or psychologically (alcohol, sex, gambling, pornography, masterbation, smoking, drugs etc.) which satan uses as an opening for demons to use to spiritually grip (a spiritual strong hold) on someone's soul which the devil uses to control the person to do his will and not God's will.

On that note I want to share what Sister Kimberly wrote on her envelope this week: The Lord is my Rock and my Fortress and my Deliverer; my God, my Strength, in Whom I will trust; my Shield and The Horn of my salvation, my Stronghold. Psalm 18:2.

God wants to have that spiritual grip on your life.



This picture is right on target. She's smoking and the smoke is making the image of baphomet, the king of the bottomless pit, satan, who is the head demon of them all. Those of you who smoke, just remember this picture because you are being influenced by satan and the fallen angels to smoke. satan is gripping your soul and has you bound up in this addiction.

If you smoke, it's not a question of whether a demon is involved or not. There are demons in your life and they are certainly influencing you to keep smoking. They helped to get you started and now they are hoping you don't learn the truth, hoping you don't really get saved and grow in the faith and get empowered by The Holy Spirit to overcome this addiction and kick them out.

In this world you are either influenced by The Holy Spirit or by evil spirits. You are listening to one or the other. There is freedom in Christ but there is misery, destruction and death in satan and his demons.

You wanna know why you haven't been able to quit smoking?



This is the reason. See all the demons behind her. They have her locked down in a demonic stronghold, an addiction of smoking. You can't see your demons, but they are there just the same. They are the reason you can't quit until you get serious about dealing with them.

It is each believer's responsibility to pay the cost of forsaking all to follow Christ. We are to be committed in seeking God in prayer & fasting, studying the word, fellowship of the saints, praising and worshipping God, giving, ministering or serving in the church/ God's kingdom, living holy, etc. These keep satan and his demons off our life. Developing a strong relationship with God is very significant. Many take long or are so reluctant in growing in the things of God. They put little effort in growing to maturity in the things of God. This makes it hard for them to deal with demons and satan. This is true for many targeted individuals, they are not getting free because either they are not saved or they are not growing. That's as plain as I can make it.

I asked Pastor Erustus his thoughts about those bound in addictions. He shared: Pastor to me some young or baby christians can struggle with alcoholism, pornography, smoking etc. at the beginning of their walk with God but with commitment to God's word, prayer and the infilling of the Holy Spirit one must overcome all those evils. As the Apostle Paul says, those who struggle with sin and please the flesh then the law of sin is still at work in them. **(Romans ch.7 & 8)** But those who make up their mind to walk in the Spirit such evil desires will be quenched by the Holy Spirit.

If you are stuck in the addiction of smoking there is hope.

1 Cor.10:13 – There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Jesus is the way of escape, being truly saved, filled and sealed by The Holy Spirit.

CLOSING

We have gotten so used to not addressing sin in the church that often times nothing is said to those that smoke or about smoking in general. God has recently led me to address the sins of smoking and drinking and things of this sort and I'm so thankful He did. We have to understand what is sin against God so that we can get these things corrected and live to please Him. I certainly don't want anyone in my flock to stand before Jesus and say Pastor Cherie never warned me.

Sometimes we think well it is very hard to stop smoking so God will go easy on them. He will be merciful to them. It isn't their fault. But really that's just our way of justifying their sin. We think like this because a lot of people profess to be Christians and yet they cannot kick the habit of smoking. Many times if you examine their lives you will find they aren't truly saved or they just aren't putting any effort into their walk with God and so they continue to stay bound up in their addictions.

Nothing is going to change until you are seriously sick and tired of this addiction. Fed up and had enough. In order to be set free, you must get truly saved, filled and sealed by The Holy Spirit. A Christian who is not baptized into The Holy Spirit is going to live a defeated life.

Jesus can set you free from this addiction. If you seek Him with all of your heart, mind, soul and strength. Otherwise, don't expect anything.

Addictions of any sort are not healthy for us. God doesn't want us to have these bad habits and strongholds in our lives.

John 8:36 - If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

John 8:32 - And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

If you listened to this whole teaching, then you now know the truth about smoking.

You must be saved through Jesus Christ, baptized into The Holy Spirit, sealed by The Holy Spirit and grow and mature in Christ in order to be set free and have these things broken off your life. Get busy doing this and God will move in your situation. If you want God to move more in your life, get on your knees more, get in prayer more, read His Word more, spend more time with Him and live a righteous life. Draw nearer to Him so He will draw nearer to you. **(James 4:8)**

Anything is possible with God, He can break your addiction off just from sincere prayer, or from prayer and fasting, or through administered deliverance or self deliverance. If God does not move through any of those ways and you see no change in your situation, then you either are not truly fed up with your addiction enough to seriously deal with it or you need to grow and mature in the faith and be empowered by The Holy Spirit to overcome. There are deeper levels of anointing, there is more Holy Spirit to be had, there is more of God but you have to go deeper in your relationship with God, you have to put the effort in on your part. There are many ways God can work to set you free when you seek Him sincerely.



Everyone smokes in hell. You don't want this addiction to drag you down to hell. Ain't gonna be nothin' sexy or glamorous about being in hell and it isn't gonna look like this. It isn't gonna be a party. It isn't gonna be a continuation of this life but only where you have no bosses, no work to do, don't have to answer to anyone and get to just goof off and hang out doing drugs, drinking, smoking and having sex all the time. That is the lie satan has painted for those that don't know Jesus and they comfort themselves believing that's what it will be like. They are on the road to hell and they say, it won't be that bad...

Imagine being locked in a car that's on fire and you can't get out. You are burning and your skin is melting off. You are screaming, the pain is so overwhelming. You don't get to have extreme pain and just pass out because that is your body's way of handling it. You will be awake forever in hell feeling the burning and the pain all the time. It will never let up. You will be well aware of all the opportunities you had to come to Jesus and surrender your life, heart, body, soul and mind to Him but you rejected Him.

It's time to get serious and get to Jesus.

In the near future I will teach on deliverance and self deliverance. But I have a few more teachings to get to first.

PRAYER