

# ADDICTION – WHAT IS IT?

Art Adams

*MSW, LCSW, LCAC, CADACIV*

# Introduction

- *“I will not be brought under the power of any” (1 Cor. 6:12)*
- *Fortress – Stronghold (2 Cor. 10:4)*
- *Shadrach, Meshech, Abednego, Daniel (Dan. 1:8-21)*

# Two Approaches Today:

1. How to maintain ourselves as a Christian “unspotted from the world”.
2. How to help bear the burdens of those entering into or returning to the church.

*“I didn’t start out thinking I’d be here.  
I had a grape Swisher, a bag, a pipe  
and a syringe and I just went out to  
have a good time...*

*...but I didn’t come back.  
I couldn’t find the path. I was on the  
end of the pipe all along thinking –  
some day – some day it will be  
different...but not today.”*

(statement from a man in treatment)



*When It Comes to Addictions,  
We Must Loudly Proclaim:*

*“The Thing You Are  
Playing With...*

*Isn't Playing With You.”*

# Definitions

- Stronghold (*2 Cor. 10:4*)
- Being devoured (*1 Peter 5:8*)
- Drunkenness (*Gal. 5:19-21*)
- Sorcery/witchcraft (*Galatians 5:19-21*)
- Snare of the devil (*1 Timothy 3:7; 6:9*)
- A deceiver (*Prov. 20:1*)

# Companions of the Lifestyle:

- Excess of riot (*1 Pet. 4:4*)
- Fornication/Adultery (*Gal. 5:19*)
- Lasciviousness (*Gal. 5:19*)
- Deceptions/Lying (*Rom. 1:31; Rev. 21:8*)
- Degrading one's body (*1 Cor. 6:18-20; Rom. 1:21-32*)
- and more...



## 1 Peter 4:1-4

*<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin.*

*<sup>2</sup>so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.* —



## 1 Peter 4:1-4

*<sup>3</sup>For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. —*

*<sup>4</sup>In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excess of dissipation, and they malign you;*

# DSM V

- Use
- Abuse
- Dependence

*They are viewed as progressive*

- Criteria:
  - Increased/decreased tolerance
  - Withdrawal symptoms
  - Inability to control or quit
  - Using more over longer time than intended
  - Continued use despite consequences
  - Pre-occupation
  - Blackouts

## It's a Fact...

*“Every class of abuse substance, except nicotine, has the capacity to produce, or mimic symptoms of other psychiatric disorders (e.g. delirium, dementia, amnesic, psychotic, mood, anxiety, sexual and sleep disorders) during intoxication or withdrawal” (DSM IV pg. 124).*

# Bridging the GAP in language...

*“ God only asked us to stay away from those things that will hurt us!”*

- Follow me on a journey to visit those who have ignored the warning signs.
- See how ignoring the sign brings pain and suffering.
- Listen as I show the way back.



# The Power of Addiction

- “Cunning, baffling, deceitful”
- It doesn’t care about YOUR plan... It has a plan of its own!
- A BIG WORD ABOUT PAIN.
- A Choice – “man takes drink, drink takes drink, drink takes man.”
- Drink to oblivion – to forget and be forgotten.

# What is *seen* on the **OUTSIDE**:

- Cravings
- Behaviors
- Psychological changes
- Progressive
  - “It’s my best friend.”
  - “Nothing else is important.”
  - “I have to have it to feel normal.”
- Gender differences
- The Path...

# What Is *happening* on the **INSIDE**:

- Rewiring the body responses
- Changing the brain chemistry
- Pleasure centers placed on “high alert”
- Tolerance
- Withdrawal



First Use

Perceived  
as normal

Three Choices:

1. Ride it out
2. Increase the dosage
3. Add a stronger substance

Baseline/  
Normal  
level



# A Drug... Is a Drug... Is a Drug!

- Tobacco
  - MOST DANGEROUS... Why?
    - Gateway drug
    - KILLS one out of three long time users and one out of nine from second-hand smoke
    - Withdrawal from tobacco is more difficult than withdrawal from heroin
- Alcohol
  - Easiest to get
  - LEGAL (except for youth)

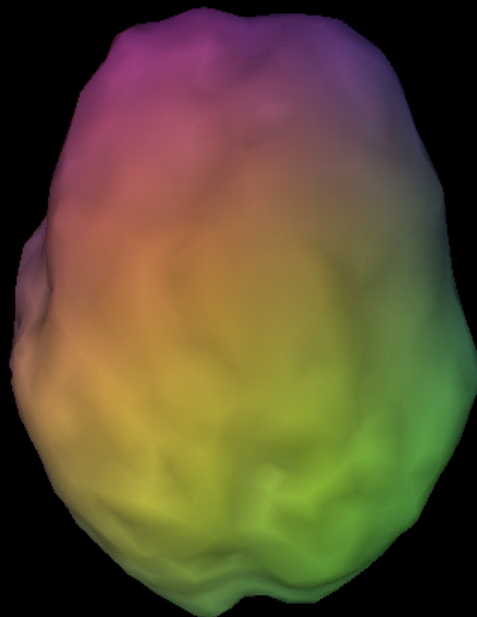
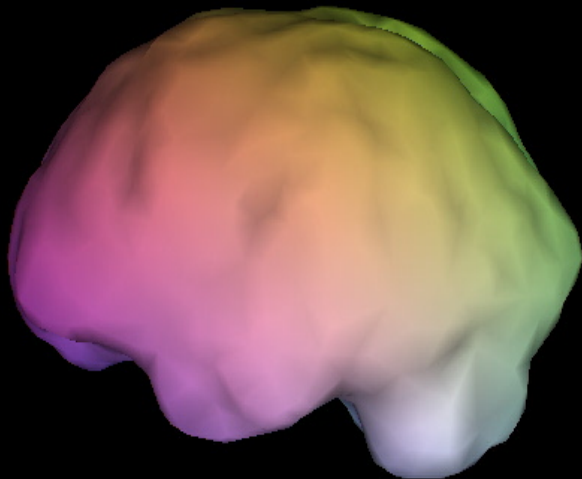
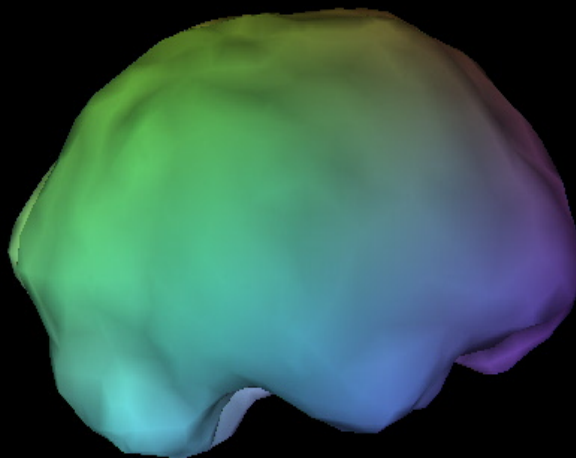
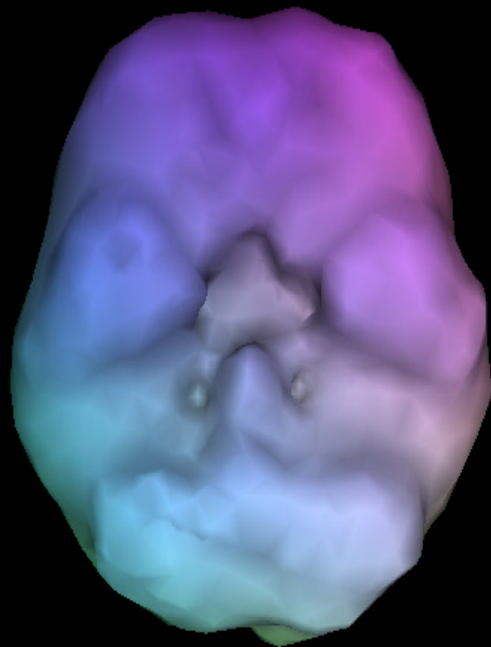
# A Drug... Is a Drug... Is a Drug!

- Designer Drugs
- PAC (pot, alcohol, cocaine) travel together
- Methamphetamine
- Heroin
- Morphine
  
- Your body is not a test tube!

# A Drug... Is a Drug... Is a Drug!

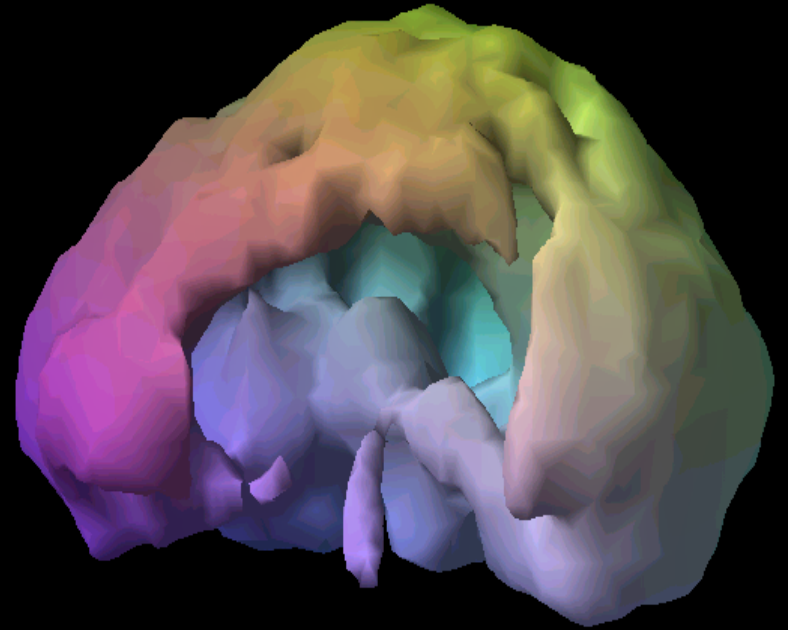
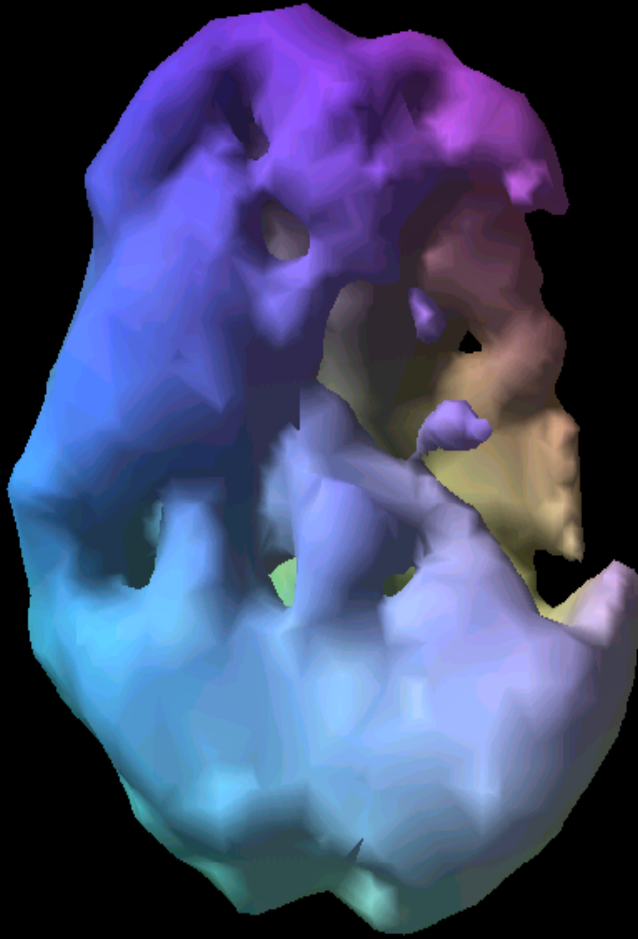
- Prescription drugs
- Over-the-counter drugs
- Herbal remedies
  - Not regulated
  - Can be dangerous
- Caffeine

**Normal**

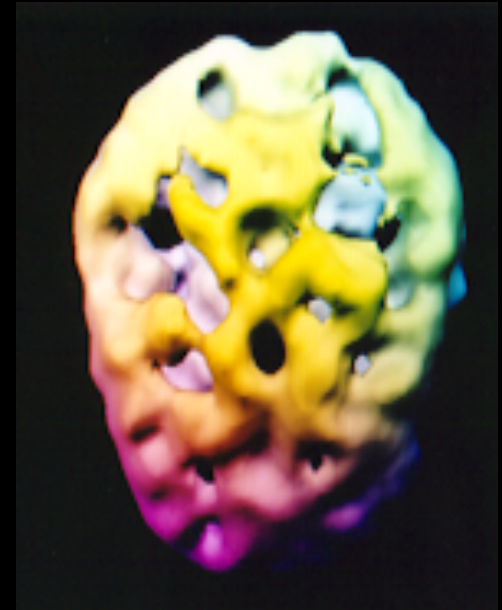




# Stroke

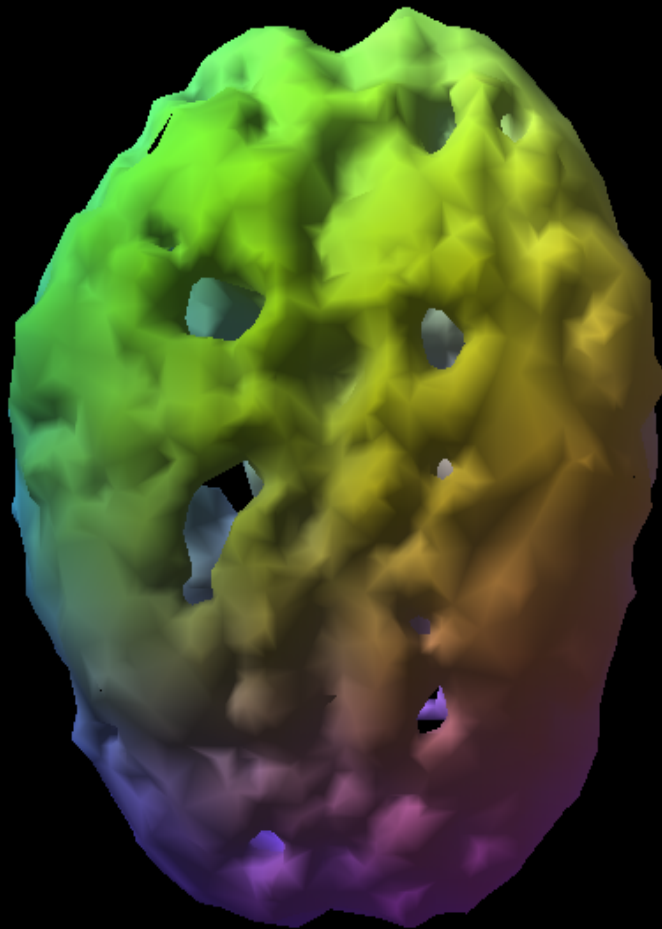


# **The Real Reason Not To Do Drugs**

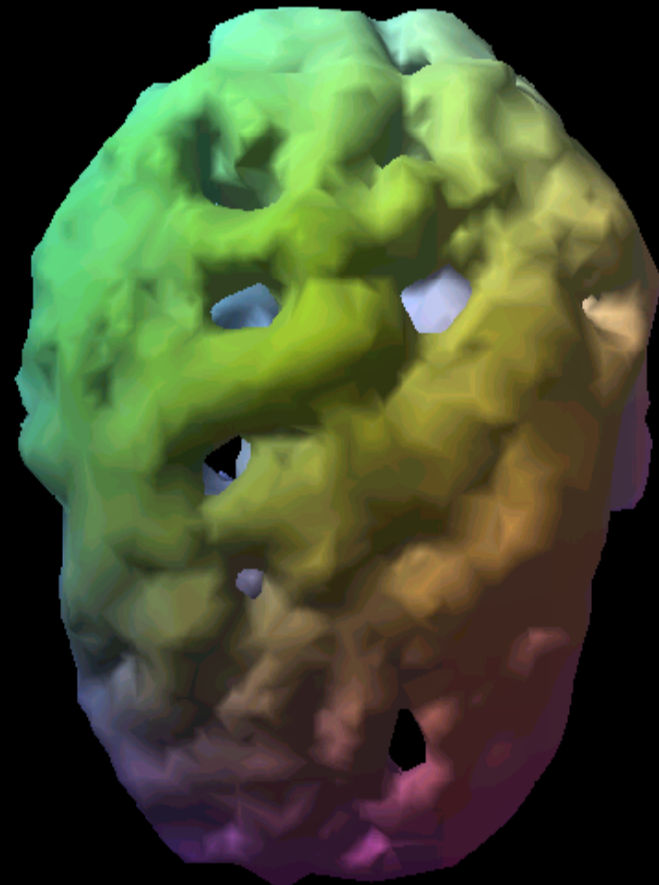


**They Damage  
Your Brain &  
Your Potential &  
They Limit Your  
Access to Yourself**

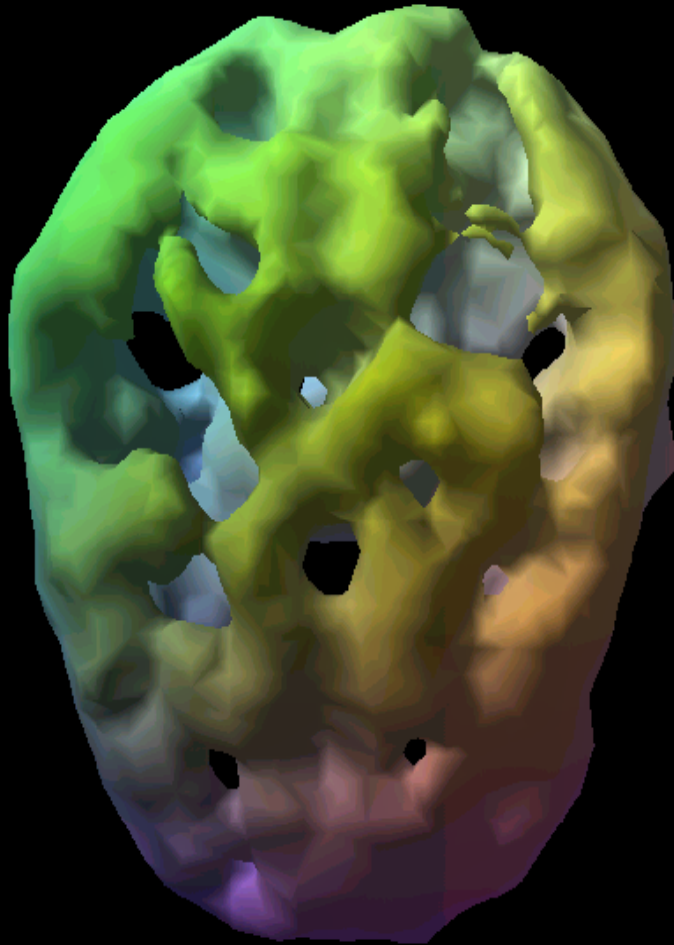
**Cocaine**



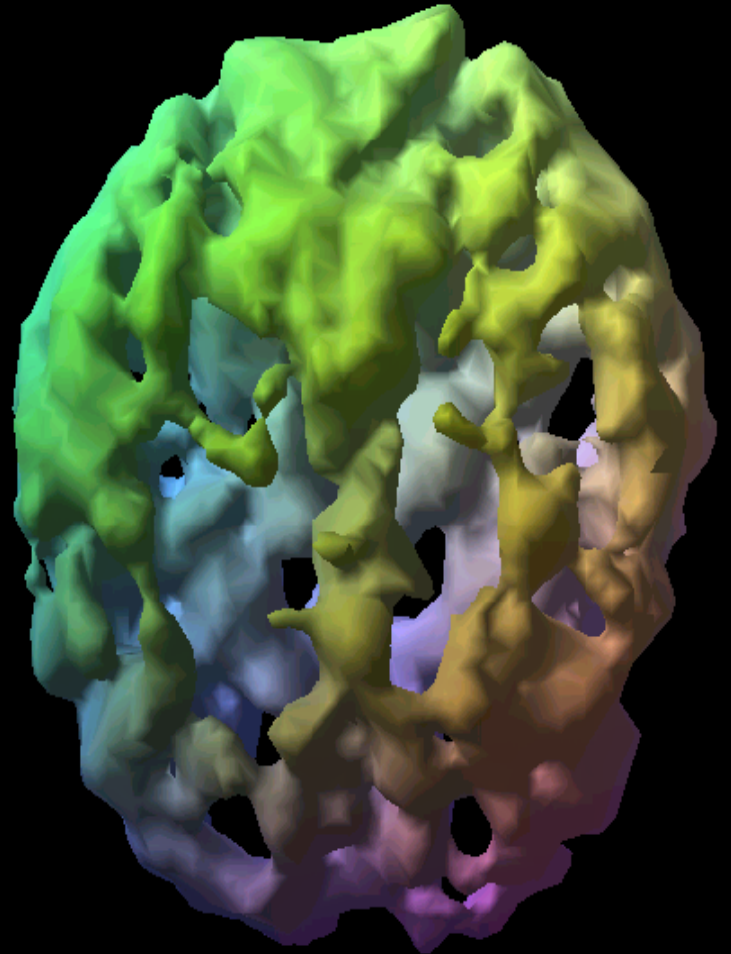
**Methamphetamine**



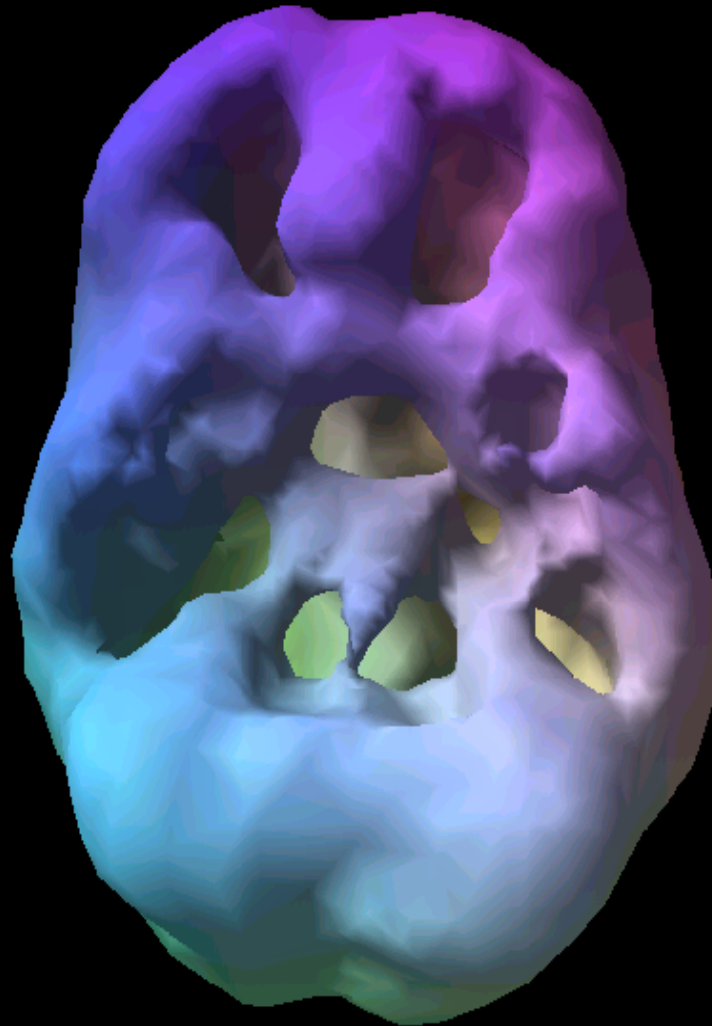
**Alcohol**



**Heroin**

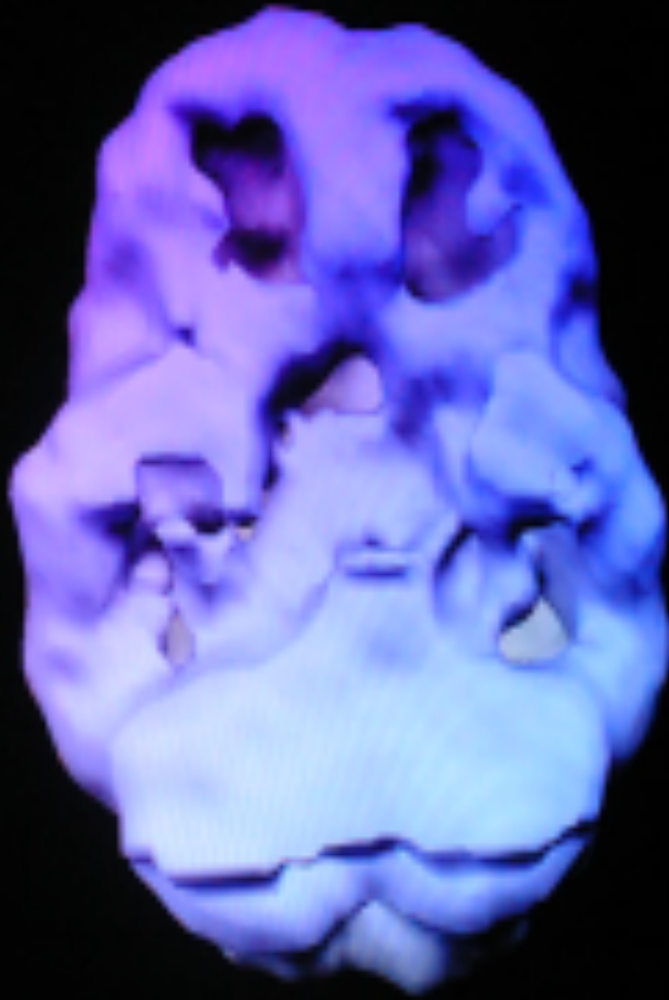


# Marijuana





# Cocaine/Alcohol -- before/after





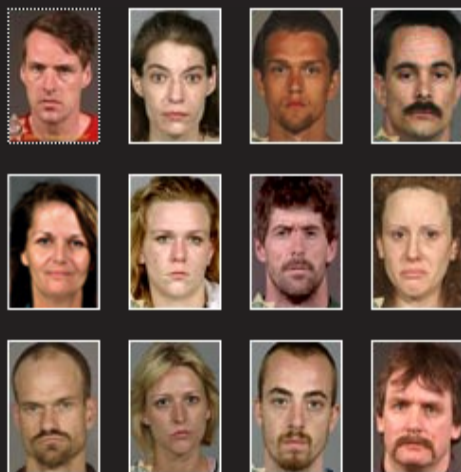


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# FACES OF METH

Click on one of the faces below to view the physical toll meth has had on these users.

Images are courtesy of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Faces of Meth™ Program.



5 years later

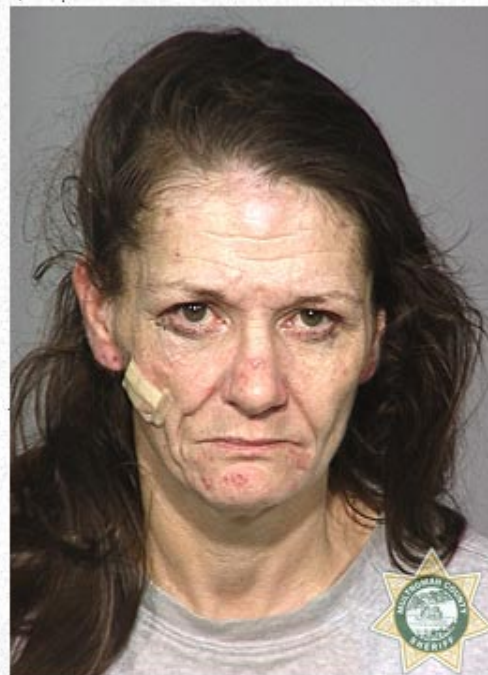
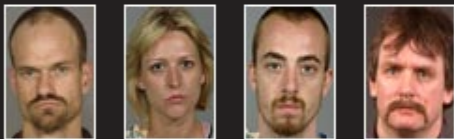


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*3 years, 5 months later*

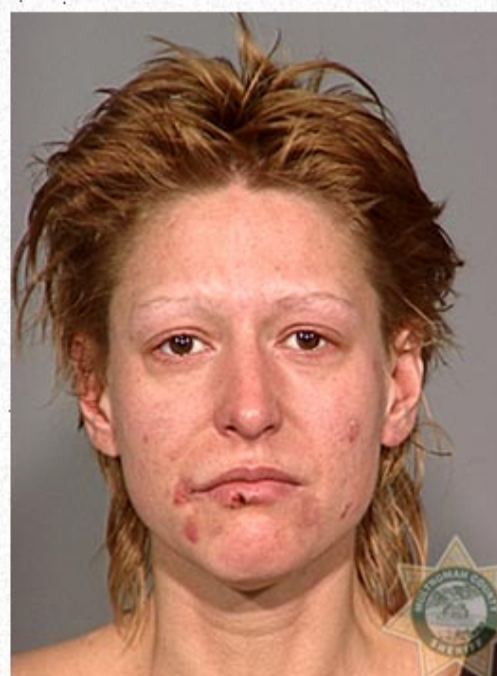
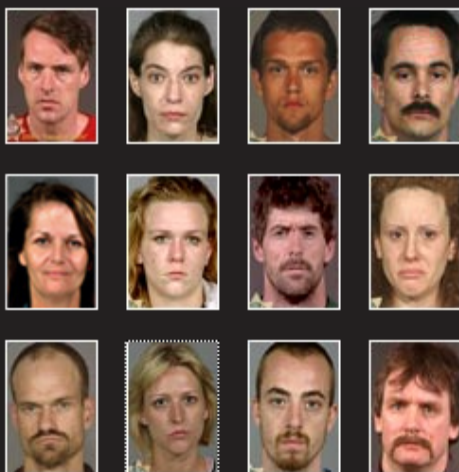


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# FACES OF METH

Click on one of the faces below to view the physical toll meth has had on these users.

Images are courtesy of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Faces of Meth™ Program.



*1 year, 5 months later*

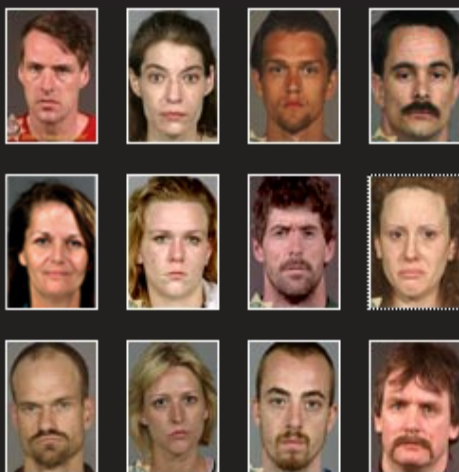




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# FACES OF METH

Click on one of the faces below to view the physical toll meth has had on these users. Images are courtesy of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Faces of Meth™ Program.



4 years, 5 months later

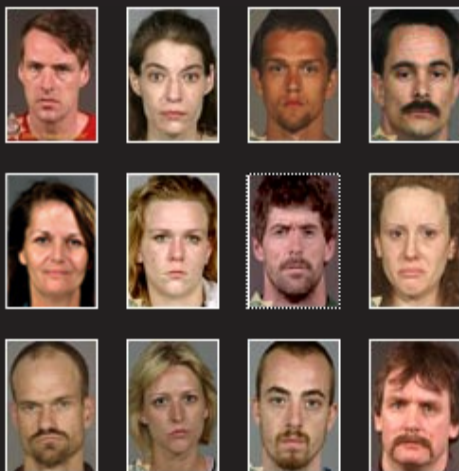


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# FACES OF METH

Click on one of the faces below to view the physical toll meth has had on these users.

Images are courtesy of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Faces of Meth™ Program.



*2 years, 5 months later*

# God's Word is Sufficient

- Addiction is a FALSE path to spirituality
- “All things that pertain to LIFE and GODLINESS (*2 Pet. 1:3*)
- “Avoid even the appearance of evil.” (*1 Thess. 5:22*)
- “Give no occasion to the adversary to speak evil of you. (*1 Tim. 5:14*)



# God's Word is Sufficient

- “Make no provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof.” (*Rom. 13:14*)
- “By their fruits ye shall know them.” (*Matt. 7:16*)
- “Be not deceived, evil companions corrupts good morals.” (*1 Cor. 15:33*)

# God's Word is Sufficient

Luke 6:45 – “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.”

(KJV)

Phil. 4:8 – “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are **true**, whatsoever things are **honest**, whatsoever things are **just**, whatsoever things are **pure**, whatsoever things are **lovely**, whatsoever things are of **good report**; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” (KJV)

# God's Word is Sufficient

- *“The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day. NOT IN RIOTING, and DRUNKENNESS, NOT IN CHAMBERING and WANTONNESS, NOT IN STRIFE AND ENVYING. But put ye on the LORD JESUS, and make NO PROVISION for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.” (Rom. 13:12-14)*
- *Galatians 5:19ff*



# God's Word is Sufficient

- *Conspiring with others (Prov. 1:7-19) – Becoming an accessory to crime.*
- *Going along with the crowd (Ex. 23:2a) – Becoming party to the sin.*
- *“Come ye out from among them and be separate and touch not the unclean thing.” (II Cor. 6:7)*

# What is our response?

- *Individual Role*
- *“Dry Drunk” behaviors*
- *Safe plan for slippery slopes*
- *EDIFY THEM!!!*
- *Bear each others' burdens (Gal. 6:2,5)*
- *Boundaries (dysfunction can bleed over into the church)*

# Family Healing

- *The healthiest looking can often be the sickest*
- *1 in 4 children live in a home where Alcohol is used daily.*
- *These children are at greater risk for*
  - *Mental illnesses*
  - *Depression*
  - *Anxiety*
  - *Mood disorders*
  - *Health problems*
  - *Learning difficulties*



# Church's Role

- *Availability of caring brothers and sisters*
- *James 5:16*
- *Luke 7:36-49*
- *Elders*
- *Confrontation vs. Compassion*

# Conclusion

- *We live IN the world, but are not OF the world.*
- *The church was designed to be an oasis for troubled souls, to lay burdens at the cross, to be a place of forgiveness, healing, and redemption.*
- *BOTTOM LINE: THE CHURCH HAS TO PULL HARDER THAN THE WORLD!*