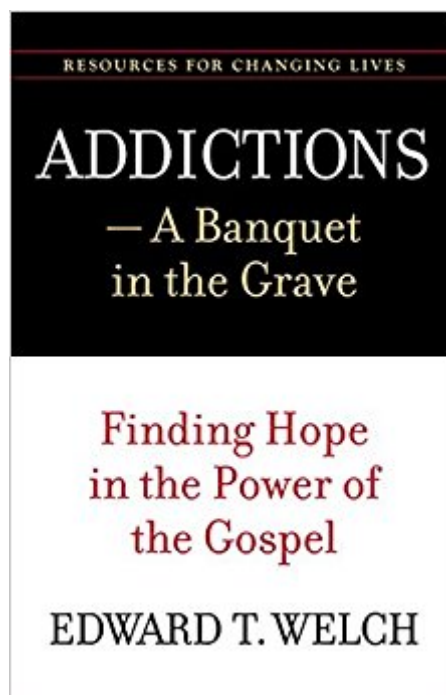




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# Addictions: A Banquet In The Grave: Finding Hope In The Power Of The Gospel (Resources For Changing Lives)



## Synopsis

A worship disorder: this is how Edward T. Welch views addictions. "Will we worship our own desires or will we worship the true God?" With this lens the author discovers far more in Scripture on addictions than passages on drunkenness. There we learn the addict's true condition: like guests at a banquet thrown by "the woman Folly," he is already in the grave (Proverbs 9:13-18). Can we not escape our addictions? If we're willing to follow Jesus, the author says that we have "immense hope: hope in God's forgiving grace, hope in God's love that is faithful even when we are not, and hope that God can give power so that we are no longer mastered by the addiction." Each chapter concludes with "Practical Theology," "As Your Face Your Own Addictions," and "As You Help Someone Else."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"One of the most helpful books providing practical theology on addictions. Welch's assessment of addictions as a problem that proceeds from the heart, involving issues of worship and idolatry, is central to helping people grow and change. This is vital reading for church leaders, and for friends and family desiring to help those struggling with addictions." --John Freeman, HARVEST USA "Destroys the myth that addiction is a disease and sin is a sickness. Welch shows that the hopeless cycle of 'sickness, recovery, and relapse' must be replaced with the biblical view of sin, salvation, and sanctification. As a pastor, biblical counselor, and redeemed (not

recovering) ex-heroin addict, I believe Welch has given every pastor, parishioner, and anyone caught in the bondage of idolatry/addiction a biblical road map to lasting freedom." --Peter Garich, Dayspring Center for Biblical Counseling "Biblically sound, practical, filled with Christ-like compassion. . . . This much-needed book offers real hope and the promise of victory in Jesus to those struggling with addiction." --Robert E. Emberger, Whosoever Gospel Mission

A book on addictions written by a leader of the biblical counseling movement, informed by the author's wide experience in counseling people with addictions.

A good book with solid biblical moorings. It may strike some as a bit heavy/rigid on the idolatry/sin aspect but he gives a solid basis behind it. He also offers a different perspective from that of "addiction as disease" and explains his reason for it. For someone like myself who doesn't fully agree that addiction IS a disease and it ISN'T only sin, I appreciated his perspective. I found the book became better and better as I read through each chapter. Welch offers concrete suggestions, a biblical framework for understanding this endemic issue, and hope.

Just finished this book. Has to be the best book I have ever read on addictions. It spoke to my soul. As a born again Christian, I have been in several 12-step programs over the last 37 years and appreciate many things I learned, but I always knew there was something more and I knew it was Christ but couldn't pull it together. This book pulled it together for me. I have underlined almost every page. If you are serious about your walk with God, with or without addictions, this book will speak to your heart. I have recommended this book to several of my church friends. Amen and amen.

THIS is the book that brought me out of the grave of overeating, and so much closer to God! Whether you're trying to help someone that worships something/someone other than God, or if you need help in this area yourself - THIS BOOK IS WORTH FAR MORE THAN its price! I have grown SO MUCH IN CHRIST JESUS while reading this book. WHY? Because it does an awesome job of pointing me to Jesus Christ, the WORD. Before reading this book, I had no idea of the dangers of AA and its groups. Read the back cover for a few terms that AA uses, but which the Bible totally blows them out of the water! AA is keeping people trapped, because they removed God out of their book, and any one, any thing can be their god - and if any one, any thing can be your god - who is REALLY their god/God? THEY are their own god! Another major thing that helped me from this

book is how the battle-plan described for anyone with a worship-disorder (as Welch calls it - and I love that term) is right to the point. Since I've read a few of this authors books, I read my Bible before doing anything else in the a.m. - even when I am so busy and think that I'll skip one day (which by the way would be fine), I just know that I will MISS Jesus' message for me if I do not read it. I now have a YEARNING to read the Word. It's no wonder to me - the Word is Jesus, and Jesus is the Word. I am reading through the Bible in 2 years (instead of 1 year), because I do not want to go past any reading that I do not understand; this gives me time to find answers before going on to the next reading. Other books have gotten me to read the Bible, but this one is what brought me to ENJOY it and have PEACE in it (the Bible; His Word; Jesus, Jesus, Jesus)!! I also read this author's books, "Just One More" and "Eating Disorders". I still love "Thin Within" by Judy & Arthur Halliday, but 'Addictions - A Banquet in the Grave" is what really sunk my heart and mind into the Word and gave me a good push to where I needed to be... simply closer to Jesus; the only One, the only thing that matters.

Ed Welch helps describe what addiction can feel like (slavery and/or a disease that one has no control over) and what addiction actually is (spiritual adultery, rebellion, etc). He exposes the human heart, showing how humans are so prone to look to things that are not God to give them the comfort, peace, security, and joy that only God can give. He shows how addictions are much more than skin-deep and that the category of addictions covers more than substance abuse. Perfectly 'normal' people can be addicted to things: success, control, security, food, a tv show, etc. He gives wisdom on some ways to deal with people who have the especially life-altering addictions (alcohol, drugs, etc). He points the Christian to Jesus, the source of the Christian's power to change, and the source of the Christian's salvation. He helps expose the fact that things in this world lie to us when they promise things that only God can provide. He shows the folly of looking to things in this world when Jesus is so much better. Highly recommended both for those who are addicted and for those who desire to help people who are addicted.

Welch writes from a wide range of life-experiences and is so knowledgeable of human nature. He tells it like it is - which provides refreshing truthfulness. Yet offers hope to any and all who are willing to do the hard work of dealing with, and growing through personal issues. I highly recommend it.

Excellent book! Explains it from the addict's view and the person who wants to help view. Gives a Christian commentary on AA and twelve-step programs. Just so very informative! I got another copy

after giving the first copy to my daughter.

A no excuses with grace explanation of addiction. Yes, I am responsible for having chosen to trade the peace of Christ for the temporary relief my substance gives me but Welch also recognizes that after awhile it feels like a disease you can't get rid of. Only surrendering yourself to Christ and the working of His Spirit will rid you of the root causes. I myself have not yet arrived but I have left and using this book as I renew my mind to the facts of Redemption is what's helping me fight the good fight!

First heard this book recommended from the pulpit of John Piper preaching through the book of Romans. Right around sermon 100 or so titled "How to kill your sin" he mentions and recommends this book. Being a doer of the word and not a forgetful hearer and purchased this book and was greatly surprise and blessed by its treatment of the subject of addictions. Being in the medical field one only hears of addictions as a disease. This is but one facet of the picture. Edward Welch goes deeper and covers the foundational problem of addictions as a worship disorder as Romans chapter 1 describes. Great book. Would highly recommend to all who wish to understand addictions from a biblical perspective.

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