



## Still Tied To The Dock?

Isaiah 59

A drunken man entered his row boat one night to cross the lake. He picked up the oars and pulled away\_\_or so he thought. He rowed throughout most of the night but did not reach his destination. When daylight came, he was surprised to find that he was at that very same dock where he started the night before. *He had forgotten to untie his boat!*

So it is with many of the Lord's followers. Even though they have been redeemed some are still tied to their habits, desires, self-will or some other cherished idol of the heart. Consequently their lives remain fruitless. *Dock-bound addicts or alcoholics are those that remain tied to the dock of bondage.*

*1 Cor 15:33-34 Do not be deceived:" Evil company corrupts good habits." 34 Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.*

1. Have you ever had some well-meaning friend or family member say to you about your addiction, "*That's Wrong! It's sin. Stop doing it!*" Or, maybe they have said, "*Can't you see that what you are doing is destroying everything in your life that is good?*"
2. Of course, we know what we are doing is wrong, and we want desperately to stop. After all, nobody likes living in bondage, but we seem powerless to break out of that crippling disease and old habit. Why is this so? What keeps us tied to that very same dock where we first started rowing?
3. All Christians should know their sins have been forgiven, they have been redeemed and they're going to Heaven. But, in the meantime for many of us it has been and may still be a "**Mean**" time. None of us set out to become addicted to something. We were seeking something else or maybe we had a subconscious desire to just self-destruct.
4. Many seeking recovery believe they are tied to the dock of their old habits or patterns of behavior because of their genetic make-up, family background or environment. In short, many believe they are victims of their past and circumstances. But, God's Word tells us we "**are not**" products of our past, but we are products of what Christ accomplished for us on the cross.
5. If we honestly believe we are victims of our past, it really won't make any difference what we do to try and change old patterns of behavior to get free. *We will always act consistently with how we perceive ourselves.* Our behavior is the result of what we believe about self. *We should believe God and start living what He says.*

*2 Cor 5:17-19 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

1. How about you? Who or what are you? Are you a product of your family environment, your genetic make-up, your habits or past? Are you all that has gone on in your life up to this point? Is your past the determining factor in who you are today?
2. Most individuals would answer an affirmative "Yes." But, get this into your spirit. "*When you become a born-again Christian, you become a new creation in Christ and a partaker of His divine nature because you have been redeemed by His blood.*"

*2 Peter 1:4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

1. "*IF*" you are a partaker of His precious promises you should no longer be living in the flesh; you should be living in Christ. *Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.*
2. God's plan is for us to have a living relationship with Him and for us to look to Him to meet "*all*" our needs according to His riches in glory.
3. The majority of us came into recovery because we'd had enough of the world's way. We'd had enough of the pain, the lies, and the destruction that resulted from our addictive behavior. Now one-day-at-a-time we must learn God's principals on this road to recovery and as a partaker of His divine nature.

- Christ taught in Matthew that we are not to expect a majority of people to follow Him on the road that leads to life. Comparatively few will enter the humble gate of true repentance and deny themselves to follow Jesus. But "IF" you are a partaker of His precious promises "you have found" that narrow gate and "you have found" the place that you probably; never in a million years imagined you could ever reach.

*Matt 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

*Ps 118:19-20 Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go through them, and I will praise the LORD. 20 This is the gate of the LORD, Through which the righteous shall enter.*

- The gate is open and God's plan for us is to have a living relationship with Him and for us to look to Him to meet all our needs, according to His riches in glory. When we were born into this world and for some even many devastating years later, we didn't have a relationship with God. So we attempted to meet our needs the best and only way we knew how.
- We remained separated from God and tied to that dock where we learned how to cope, succeed, survive or defend ourselves, *independent from God*. That is essentially the character of the flesh, or our old nature.
- Most don't automatically stop living that way when they become Christians or partakers of His precious promises. In fact, many still continue to operate in the flesh, *at times* not even realizing they are doing so. *Why?*
- Our lifelong and deeply entrenched flesh patterns developed into mental strongholds that kept us tied to that old dock. And these very same flesh patterns will keep us from going on to experience the true freedom that Christ purchased for us while on the cross.



*Col 1:26-27 The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. 27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

- The mystery has been revealed to you!* Now realize that for too many years you have been programmed by your past, the world, your addiction and your flesh. Satan has made it his purpose to keep you there. *As long as you keep believing Satan's lies and keep living according to the flesh, you will remain tied to the dock.*

*Redemption* is more than just an important Biblical Word or Concept. Thousands of years ago, Job said, "For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth;" Job 19:25  
David wrote, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer. Ps 19:14  
And God told us, "I will feed those who oppress you with their own flesh, And they shall be drunk with their own blood as with sweet wine. All flesh shall know That I, the LORD, am your Savior, And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob." Isa 49:26

- The Greek word "Lutroo" literally means "to set free, redeem, rescue." Strongs: definition is "to loosen with a redemption price as in a ransom." Vine's, says it means "to buy out, especially with a view to freedom."
- Paul says, "knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. Romans 6:6-7

3. Have you died with Christ? Then you should no longer be tied to the dock of bondage or a slave to sin! You should no longer be a product of your past, your family or your addiction! *But: The choice is always going to be yours and you can retie that knot of bondage anytime you wish.*

*2 Cor 5:17-18 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

*By dying on the cross for me and making me a new creation,  
Christ has redeemed me from the empty way of life that I  
learned from growing up in my family and all the other  
worldly experiences that led me to believe I was just another lost and hopeless individual.  
I will no longer be tied to my dock of hopelessness. I will be a mighty person in faith.  
I will be doer of His Word because He is the source of all my hope!*