

Addiction

I beseech you brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

—*I Corinthians 16:15*

We hear a lot about additions today. Some people are addicted to alcohol, tobacco, or drugs. Many are addicted to gambling, to violence, or to video games. I have even heard of addictions to certain types of music. An addiction is dependence on something that is psychologically or physically habit-forming. It is an abnormally strong craving.

An addiction is so powerful that the person is consumed by their need. In I Corinthians 16:15, Paul is talking about Christians who are known by their exceptionally strong desire to the ministry of the saints. Their desire to serve the Lord is not only a goal, not only a habit; it is an all-consuming passion that drives everything they do.

People know these believers. They are marked because of this addiction to the ministry. Some Christians go to church on Sunday, sing the hymns, pray and maybe even read their Bible during the week. But they have a *silent ministry*. No one knows that they love the Lord.

Are we believers who are so addicted to the ministry of the Lord that we are never satisfied? We always want to be more like Christ, to do more for Him, to serve through the ministry to the saints every minute of the day. It is more than a desire, it is a healthy, biblical addiction.