

## **THE DANGERS OF MARIJUANA (or any kind of drug/alcohol abuse)**

**1. Marijuana is NOT good for your health** A recent study by the Journal of Neuroscience demonstrates that even casual marijuana use changes the brain and can lead to mental illness (see USA Today and Journal of Neuroscience). The fact that children are being hospitalized due to accidental marijuana exposure also demonstrates the health risks: MedicalDaily.com.

- <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/04/15/marijuana-brain-changes/7749309/>
- <http://www.jneurosci.org/content/34/16/5529.abstract>
- <http://www.medicaldaily.com/legalized-marijuana-cookie-sends-2-year-old-girl-hospital-colorado-266338>

**2. Marijuana IS addictive** (see Psychology Today and Brown.edu). The Bible commands us not to allow our bodies to become "mastered" by anything. "Everything is permissible for me—but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible for me—but I will not be mastered by anything" (1 Corinthians 6:12-20; see also 2 Peter 2:19).

- <http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/almost-addicted/201311/is-marijuana-addictive>
- [http://www.brown.edu/Student\\_Services/Health\\_Services/Health\\_Education/alcohol,\\_tobacco,\\_&\\_other\\_drugs/marijuana.php](http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Health_Services/Health_Education/alcohol,_tobacco,_&_other_drugs/marijuana.php)

**3. Marijuana use is inconsistent with anything the Word of God tells us about the Christian life** We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2), not by the deadening of our minds. We are to be sober-minded about the devil's schemes (1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8), not so stoned that we don't even care. We are to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18), not baked/blasted/wasted by what is undeniably a harmful drug. Christians are called to be above reproach, "without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation," shining "as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:15).

**4. Marijuana use is sinful** The Bible is clear that being "under the influence" or "drunkenness" (buzzed, high, etc.) and its effects are sin (Proverbs 20:1, 23:20-21, 29-35; Isaiah 5:11; Habakkuk 2:15; Ephesians 5:18). Christians are also commanded to not allow their bodies to be "mastered" by anything (1 Corinthians 6:12; 2 Peter 2:19). Scripture also forbids a Christian from doing anything that might offend other Christians or encourage them to sin against their conscience (1 Corinthians 8:9-13). In light of these principles, it would be extremely difficult for any Christian to say he is "getting high" to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

In addition, the NT addresses drug use directly by using the Greek word "pharmakeia" which is where we get the English word "pharmacy." The NT translates this word as "Sorcery" and the primary meaning is "the use or the administering of drugs" (usually associated with sorcery or idolatry). Galatians 5:19-21 lists "sorcery" alongside a list of things that, if practiced, would preclude one from heaven. This should be a reasonably strong suggestion that the Christian should not practice drug use. In addition, the book of Revelation lists drug use as one of the things for which the unrepentant will suffer the wrath of God (Revelation 9:20-21, 18:23, 21:8, 22:15).

**5. Marijuana use is a form of idolatry, as is any addiction** Anything we are using besides God to meet or medicate deep heart needs is an idol. When we rely on ourselves, someone else, or something else to meet our needs for value, worth, or significance, we have erected an idol that takes the place of the real God in our lives. God views it as such and has strong words for idol worshipers (Exodus 20:3, 34:14; 1 John 5:21; 1 Corinthians 12:2). Marijuana use is not a disease; it is a choice. God holds us accountable for our choices (Romans 14:12; Ecclesiastes 11:9; Hebrews 4:13).

**6. Marijuana is still illegal in many places.** Romans 13:1-7 tells us that believers must submit to the laws of government as long as there is no conflict with the higher laws of God in Scripture.

**7. Marijuana is just childish and foolish** Our culture and the church is already too full of "childish men", the last thing we need today is guys who get high, are less motivated, and are less productive. Instead we desperately need guys who will "act like men, and be strong" (1 Cor. 16:13). 1 Corinthians 13:11 says "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways". A mature Christian man uses His freedom in Christ not as a license to be high but as a gift that leads to willingly sacrificing easy pleasures in order to serve.

### **8. Additional Resources**

- <https://youtu.be/OgruMjHzeUs>
- <http://www.populartechology.net/2014/04/150-scientific-studies-showing-dangers.html>
- [http://www.calvarybyesville.org/eek/marijuana\\_medical\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.calvarybyesville.org/eek/marijuana_medical_booklet.pdf)