

ACCESS, 1/19 - Marijuana

Read:

Colossians 3:1-2 // ¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

1 Peter 5:8 // ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Ephesians 5:18 // ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.

Big Questions:

- What does the bible say about marijuana, if anything?
- What should be our perspective on cannabis? Does it differ from other substances, like alcohol, caffeine, even sugar?
- Are we (the Church) being legalistic in our stance on marijuana?
- Can/should we reject something that God has created?
- Because something is legal, does that make it good? Why do we do what we do?

Teaching Points:

- 64% of Americans support the legalization of marijuana
- The Bible does not explicitly give instruction on the use of cannabis (as opposed to alcohol), but it does give guidelines and principles on drunkenness we can use to guide our perspective
 - Intoxication by alcohol typically occurs after 4 drinks, marijuana by 4 puffs
- Marijuana is not harmless; studies show several health effects on marijuana users
- "Regular marijuana use causes disengagement, dulling individuals into a long-term, slow, and subtle numbness." - Jeff Lacine, *Marijuana to the Glory of God*

Discussion Questions:

- What is the perception of heavy users of marijuana? What truth/falsehoods are there in those perceptions? What story do these stereotypes tell?
- How can we have a biblical perspective on a topic not explicitly referenced in the bible? What is that biblical perspective?
- Do you see a difference between medical and recreational use? What is the difference? What is the deeper issue or heart behind habit? Why do people use it?
- If marijuana was legalized, how does that change how you view its use, if at all? If you're allowed to, should you?

Recommended Resources:

- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/marijuana-to-the-glory-of-god>
- <http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2013/november-online-only/what-would-jesus-smoke.html>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/is-recreational-marijuana-use-a-sin/>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/9-things-you-should-know-about-the-health-effects-of-marijuana/>