

PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

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PUFF, PUFF, PASS – THE CHRISTIAN & MARIJUANA

In this article, I simply want to explore the question, “Is it okay for Christians to recreationally smoke marijuana?” I affirm that the answer is resoundingly, “No!” Sadly, however, I know of more than one person who has been baptized for the remission of their sins who feels (Prv. 14:12; 30:12) smoking weed is a perfectly fine thing to do.

IS THERE SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY FOR SMOKING MARIJUANA?

One must have authorization from God for all that they do (Col. 3:17; Nmb. 9:6-8; Eph. 5:8-10, 15-17). To find out if something is authorized one turns to the scriptures – properly studied in the their respective contexts (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:15-17). Is there a command stating that the Christian must smoke marijuana? No. Is there an approved scriptural example that demonstrates that smoking marijuana is acceptable to God? No. Are there any necessary conclusions in scripture that let the reader know smoking a joint to unwind after a day’s work is something God is cool with? No. Hmm. You see, smoking marijuana cannot be proven as being acceptable with God, thus the Christian must set the bongs down if they seek to please Jehovah.

THE SCRIPTURES FORBID MARIJUANA USE

True, the Bible does not specifically mention the word “marijuana.” However, God’s word surely does forbid the use of mind-altering drugs. Note: “*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God*” (Gal. 5:19-21). The word that I underlined comes from the Greek word, pharmakeía. The term pharmakeía includes the idea of using illicit drugs (#5331/Complete Word Study Dictionary of The NT). Certainly then, smoking marijuana falls within the context of pharmakeía and is thus a damnable work of the flesh – an act which will bar one from heaven, unless genuine repentance occurs (cf. Rev. 9:20-21; 18:1-4, 23).

MARIJUANA IS AN INTOXICANT

[About.com](http://www.about.com) says of marijuana: “Marijuana is the most commonly used illegal drug in the United States. The drug is primarily smoked, sometimes eaten. Its intoxicating effects include relaxation, sleepiness, and mild euphoria (getting high).” Christians are supposed to abstain from intoxicants. 1 Pet. 5:8 states: “*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.*” The word I underlined is the Greek word, nepho. This word means, “to be free from the influence of intoxicants” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary).

MARIJUANA USE CAN LEAD TO ADDICTION

“Users of marijuana may become psychologically dependent. They may have a hard time limiting their use, they may need more of the drug to get the same effect, and they may develop problems with their jobs and personal relationships. The drug can become the most important aspect of their lives” (<http://www.well.com/user/woa/fspot.htm>). Although not a parallel context, we can certainly see the principle of Christians not putting themselves in the cross-hairs of addiction (1 Cor. 6:12).

SMOKING MARIJUANA CAN PROVE VERY HARMFUL TO ONE’S BODY

“Marijuana can be especially harmful to the lungs because users often inhale the unfiltered smoke deeply and hold it in their lungs as long as possible” (<http://www.well.com/user/woa/fspot.htm>). We are not to intentionally harm our bodies – bodies formed in the womb by God Himself (Eph. 5:28; Isa. 44:2; Jer. 1:5).

SMOKING MARIJUANA SETS A VERY POOR EXAMPLE BEFORE A WATCHING WORLD

Christians are supposed to be light in a dark world (Mt. 5:16; Plp. 2:15; 1 Th. 5:5). “Christians” who smoke weed hurt the cause; sullying Christ and His church. Is “getting high” really worth such? Let all dope-heads truly ponder Heb. 12:14-16.

SMOKING MARIJUANA IS ILLEGAL IN MOST PLACES

As Christians, we are commanded to be in subjection to governing authorities (Rom. 13:1-2). When one lights up, in most places he or she is breaking the law and thus sinning. However, even if smoking weed were legal in one’s locale it still would not be authorized. Legalized sin is still sin; and sin is that which Christians are to avoid (Mt. 5:48; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Th. 4:7; 1 Jn. 2:1-6).