

## GOD'S WORD

# RECREATIONAL DRUG USE

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*The BIBLE says that recreational drug use is sinful*

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**W**HAT DO YOU mean, "TAKING RECREATIONAL DRUGS," is sinful?? The Bible says nothing about MARIJUANA AND OTHER DRUGS!

Sure it does!

The Bible doesn't purport to be the definitive guide and user's handbook to sin and sinning; the Bible declares itself to be the definitive guide and user's handbook to righteousness and pleasing God! The Word of God (the Bible) doesn't attempt to list every sin in the world, nor does it provide exact and legally precise definitions of what does and does not constitute sin;<sup>1</sup> that would be diametrically opposite to everything the Word of God stands for! God wants His people to avoid sin, from their hearts, to desire righteousness in their hearts, regardless of whether that sin is even mentioned in the Bible!

6 Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part Thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

**Psalm 51:6 The BIBLE**

The Bible introduces us to God, tell us Who God Is and how to please Him, and how to enter into an ever-deepening and intimate relationship with Him. Don't seek sin in the Bible; you won't find it there. Sin is found in the world; the world will show you what sin is. What you seek in the Bible defines you, whether it be God or sin. What you do find in the Bible is God.

The Bible, in its description of God and its description of the life of the Godly, does, however, offer hints as to what is sin. But, counterintuitively, sin is able to be seen in the Bible only as one is seeking God, not seeking sin! One learns to identify a counterfeit bill by first examining and becoming intimately

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<sup>1</sup> The ancient Jews used to try to put exact definitions on sin. For instance, they said that, to spit, on the Sabbath Day, was not sinning. However, if the spittle rolled, the spitter could be accused of plowing on the Sabbath Day, and was therefore said, by them, to be sinning!

familiar with the genuine bill. The Christian, as he pursues God by learning the Word of God and spending quality time with Him in prayer and with other Christians, in fellowship, gains an increased understanding of the righteousness and character of God, and of what God does naturally and automatically in His surrendered people. He begins to see the God of holiness. His eyes are drawn toward the light of life itself. And, in so doing, sin is seen in stark contrast; the Christian gains a real understanding of, and ability to identify, what is not the Light, by becoming intimately familiar with the light. All that is not God becomes very obvious as such.

God tells us, in His Word,

20 You, however, have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.

21 I have not written you because you lack knowledge of the truth, but because you have it, and because no lie comes from the truth.

...

24 As for you, let what you have heard from the beginning remain in you. If it does, you will also remain in the Son and in the Father.

25 And this is the promise that He Himself made to us: eternal life.

26 I have written these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.

27 And as for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But just as His true and genuine anointing teaches you about all things, so remain in Him as you have been taught.

**I John 2:20-21, 24-27 The BIBLE**

The Christian, he/she who has been born again,<sup>2</sup> has experienced a supernatural transformation. This is not just some initiation and indoctrination into some cult or intellectual creed; it is an actual, real-life, supernatural experience with Almighty God, a one-time experience and on-going process that has actually transformed the 'convert' into a new creature! This new creature now has an innate ability to understand God that the untransformed (un-born-again) creature simply does not have. He will automatically and innately know where the borders of sin are, and will flee those borders; as he follows Christ he will be repelled by even their mere approach (THAT is what the borders of sin are – not the action of sin, itself, but the APPROACH of sin!). The unsaved will know he is sinning,<sup>3</sup> his conscience will tell him that,<sup>4</sup> but he will not understand its borders. This, God puts into the heart of only His children;

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<sup>2</sup> **John 3:3-18, I Peter 1:23 The BIBLE**

<sup>3</sup> Unless, by sin, he has 'scarred-over' his conscience:

1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

**I Timothy 4:1-5 The BIBLE**

<sup>4</sup> 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

this is not a legal, but a Spiritual exercise on God's part. And so the nonChristian will attempt to define the border of sin himself, an intellectual/fleshly exercise on his own part. Knowing God, the born-again Christian also automatically knows sin (and is repelled by it). To know God means to automatically know what is not God. It is innate. Natural. Automatic. Spiritual.<sup>5</sup>

And therefore, an attempt by a compromising Christian to define exactly what is and is not sin, and trying to find in the Bible what exactly, letter-by-letter defines sin so that he can approach the very edge of sin without sinning, is simply the act of someone who has taken his eyes off the righteous God Who has saved him; this Christian has started to direct his focus onto the sin that God Is not. He has allowed his heart to stray from his Lord, and is playing with the idea of sinning. He does not need to know what physical borders exactly define sin; he does not need to know where the border of sin is; the sincere Christian wishes to get as far away from sin as possible, and away from the borders of sin. His dwelling isn't at the edge of sin and righteousness; the sincere Christian's dwelling is at the border between righteousness and God Himself.

The need to define the borders of sin is the territory of the sinful, for no matter how much they sin, they nevertheless see themselves as, "not bad; certainly not as bad as that guy over there." So they wish to have some definition of sin, to confirm that self-justification. They will KNOW that they are sinning, so they ALREADY HAVE the definition of sin. So it is FOR THE SINNER, AND THE COMPROMISING CHRISTIAN, those who are attempting to ignore what they already know, that this message is written, to define for them why/how taking drugs recreationally is sin.

The Bible tells us that drunkards will not go to heaven.

9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

**I Corinthians 6:9-11 The BIBLE**

The Bible doesn't attempt to list drugs; it doesn't say, "users of heroine, marijuana, opium, fentanyl, ecstasy, LSD, alcohol, etc., will not go to heaven;" most of these drugs didn't exist when the Bible was written. Most of these drugs didn't exist until the last century. God didn't even name any drug (other than alcohol). He simply wrote that a person who makes a point of inducing the effects of drugs for recreation will not enter heaven. That covers it! One will note, also, God's attention and concentration on the PERSON sinning, not on any substance or subject of the sin! God's concern is always for the PERSON, the very object He came to love, to die for, to save.

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**Romans 1:19-20 The BIBLE**

<sup>5</sup> 63 It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the Words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life.

**John 6:63 The BIBLE**

“But that’s just what I’m talking about,” says the sinner! “No OBJECT or SUBSTANCE can be inherently sinful! Especially, if GOD MADE IT that way! If God made marijuana to have that effect, how could it be sinful??” And this, the sinner’s argument, is quite right! The passage we quoted above, I Corinthians 6:9-11, continues at verse 12:

12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

**I Corinthians 6:12 The BIBLE**

... marijuana is indeed not at all sinful, *in itself*; God made it the way it is! There is nothing inherently sinful about marijuana! In fact, verse 12 tells us that ALL things are LAWFUL ... but not all things are EXPEDIENT (“proper or appropriate”). God created the stones of the ground with certain physical characteristics: hard, heavy, sharp, etc., but that doesn’t mean that God intended them to be used to stone someone to death; stones have a multitude of legitimate uses, for which reason God made them. Similarly, God created marijuana with certain pharmacological/medicinal characteristics, but that doesn’t mean that God intended them to be used to stone ourselves with; marijuana and other natural drugs have a multitude of legitimate uses, for which reason God made them! Our medical profession has discovered many very useful medical uses for drugs like marijuana, and those *alone* are the purposes for which God gave them to us. Using drugs recreationally is NOT expedient; it is sinful.<sup>6</sup> Jesus said so. Using drugs properly, and medicinally, IS expedient. Jesus said so.<sup>7</sup> Again,

12 All things are lawful unto me, BUT NOT ALL THINGS ARE EXPEDIENT ... .

**I Corinthians 6:12 The BIBLE**

So what says that recreational use of marijuana is not, “expedient?” I Corinthians 6:10 says that drunkards/stoners/junkies will not go to heaven.

I Corinthians 6:12 continues: “... all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.” The addict’s, “I’m not addicted; it’s under control; I can quit any time I want!” ... is applicable here, too. Only the addict feels the need to make that claim. Marijuana and all other recreational drugs of any sort are indeed addictive. And marijuana controls its victim both immediately, and long-term.

A person on drugs may claim an enhanced spirituality while on the drugs but this certainly is not a Spirituality that draws one closer to God! Marijuana, LSD, Ayahuasca, etc., have all been described to be spirituality-enhancing, but they have not been called that by anyone who is born-again! On the contrary, such experiences only separate between God and man! The most a drug can offer in the way of spirituality might be when used medicinally, to perhaps clear or relax the mind, helping to return the mentally unstable or insane to a measure of balance, of normality, so that his mind can again reason, and pursue God. But used as such, it can at most merely return the sick mind to stability, to normality, not increase a stable mind’s ability to experience Almighty God! In fact, Scripture tells us that being

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<sup>6</sup> 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

**I Corinthians 6:10 The BIBLE**

<sup>7</sup> And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

**Genesis 1:29 The BIBLE**

drunk/high prevents our worship and drawing close to the Lord. He calls the drunkard/junkie a fool, and unwise:

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,  
 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.  
 17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.  
 18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;  
 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

**Ephesians 5:15-19 The BIBLE**

Use of recreational drugs is often found to lower one's defenses against the demonic, and to enable demons full reign in a mind that would otherwise offer some resistance. Hallucinations and dreams experienced by drunks and drug users often include snakes, a form often employed by satan, whether physically or virtually/in appearance. A Christian who has taken drugs will, if honest, describe how the experience has in fact separated between him and God!

There are various activities, not mentioned in the Bible, that the mature Christian will find either actively compromise and indeed lessen his relationship with God, or that simply passively indicate a lessened or stunted relationship with God; they are both cause and indication. Smoking is not mentioned in the Bible, but one finds that a smoker is typically not close to God. Similarly, dancing is found to be uncharacteristic of a person close to God, as is regularly listening to secular music. When one is pursuing God with a whole heart he will find that there are various activities like these that will naturally and spontaneously drop away from his life (they may also return if/when the Christian draws away from Christ, and therefore can, to some extent, be recognized as an indicator of what is happening in that Christian's life). They may be conscious, visible and obvious or they could be intangible, ethereal, unconscious. They won't be named in the Word of God as sins. But the mature or zealous Christian will find that some activities definitely are not conducive to his growing closer to Christ, and that they will actually draw him away from his Saviour. For this reason they will automatically fall away from his life as he draws closer to his Saviour. And to the zealous Christian, any and every such liability to his relationship with God is revolting. He wishes nothing to do with any of them.

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,  
 2 Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Hebrews 12:1-2 The BIBLE**

No Christian should have to be forced to follow righteousness just because man's laws enforce it; righteousness comes naturally for the person of God. Man's laws are for sinners, and meant simply to enforce what God has decreed (but only as the laws reflect righteousness), and to enforce what the Christian does naturally. And what about the current tendency to make recreational drug use legal? Does this remove its sinfulness? "God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar!"<sup>8</sup> And one

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<sup>8</sup> Romans 3:4a The BIBLE

should notice that other sins, also, are now becoming legal: gambling, prostitution, divorce, adultery, homosexuality, etc. As in the legalization of these other sins, the legalization of illicit drugs is hardly a justification for its use! And no Christian should ever desire to do the kind of things that were once illegal, in more Godly days! How shameful, to be recognized as someone who does any of these now-legal things that we just mentioned!

So, in conclusion, recreational drug use definitely is sin. The Bible says it is. And everyone knows it. But the nonChristian and the compromising Christian will both seek to use satan's original deception, "Yea, has God REALLY said ... ?" Genesis 3:1.

God calls on users of marijuana and other illicit drugs to repent.

30 And the times of this ignorance God overlooked; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

**Acts 17:30 The BIBLE**