

Sunday, July 1, 2018  
Did You Know?

## What To Do About Pot

The government of Canada has legalized recreational marijuana beginning October 17, 2018. Only Uruguay and Spain have already legalized marijuana. How are Christians to think and behave regarding the recreational use of this drug? Should we treat it just like alcohol or should we view it differently? Even though the Bible does not mention marijuana, there are some general principles that can be applied.

1. Something being legal doesn't make it right. For example, abortion is legal in Canada. There are no restrictions whatsoever, yet we know that abortion is equal to murdering a human being. Drunkenness is not a crime in Canada, as long as you don't do something that will endanger life, like driving a vehicle. Yet, we are well aware that Scripture prohibits drunkenness. Just as being intoxicated by alcohol is sin, we can also conclude that being intoxicated by marijuana is also a sin.
2. Building upon point 1, it is possible to drink small quantities of alcohol without getting intoxicated, but is it possible to ingest small quantities of marijuana without getting intoxicated? Studies have shown that it takes only 4 puffs to become intoxicated by marijuana, and of course we all know that the recreational use of marijuana is for the sole purpose of becoming intoxicated, which is not the case with limited alcohol consumption.<sup>1</sup>
3. Not everything that is permissible is beneficial. Paul made that clear in 1 Corinthians 6:12: "*I have the right to do anything, you say -- but not everything is beneficial. I have the right to do anything -- but I will not be mastered by anything.*" As well, in 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 Paul writes, "*I have the right to do anything, you say -- but not everything is beneficial. I have the right to do anything -- but not everything is constructive.*"<sup>24</sup> *No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.*" Certain things may be permissible legally and they may even be permissible Scripturally, but even then, it may cause a weaker Christian to stumble in their faith. In those circumstances, we should refrain for the sake of our brother or sister.
4. Since the Scriptures inform us to eat and drink to the glory of God, we should indeed ask whether or not recreational marijuana consumption can really be done to the glory of God. Will it make me alert and keep me vigilant to watch and pray so that I will not fall into temptation, or will it lead me into greater sin?

So, is recreational marijuana use a sin? I can't say 100% that it is, but we should be very cautious to dismiss so easily that it isn't. For the people of God, may even the subject of pot smoking, give us the opportunity to re-examine our lives and our witness to a watching world.

Soli Deo Gloria.  
Pastor Peter

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/is-recreational-marijuana-use-a-sin/>