

The Sin Of Drug Use And Abuse

Drug Use and Abuse

- **Drugs:** “Chemicals that have a profound impact on the neuro-chemical balance in the brain which directly affects how you feel and act.”
- **Drug Addiction:** Leads to changes in the structure and function of the brain.

Drug Use:

- Involves **the use of drugs**, often illegal drugs.
- **Some substances** are not legally prohibited, but are used in such a way to get a buzz, a “high,” a “lift,” an artificial euphoria or a hallucination. Such as **sniffing glue**, **inhaling aerosol gases** using plastic bags held over the mouth, or **breathing from a solvent-soaked rag**, or open container. Could include **deodorizers**, **nail polish remover**, **spray pain**, **pain thinner**, etc.

Drug Use

- Has been defined as the “use of drugs for *non-medical* reasons in an attempt to influence the mind and body, an attempt to alter the emotions, to change the senses, to escape from reality.”
- Not referring to the medicinal use of legal drugs prescribed by a licensed physician to protect one from disease.

The Bible Sets forth **Principles** Designed to Govern How We Use Our:

- **Body:**
 - I Corinthians 6:12, 19-20; 9:27; 7:1; Romans 12:1-2; Romans 6:12-13.
- **Mind:**
 - Proverbs 4:23; 23:7; Matthew 5:8,28; 15:19; Philippians 4:8; 2 Corinthians 7:1.
- **Note:** Any drug which would cause me to lose self-control, cause my body or mind to be addicted, or unable to perform their God-given functions **must be avoided!**

Alcohol is a Drug; it reflects the ill **Effects** of all illicit Drugs.

- Consider its effect **on Noah**, Genesis 9:20-27.
- Its effect **on Lot**, Genesis 19:30-38.
- It contributes to one being “*stubborn and rebellious*,” Deuteronomy 21:20-21.
- Alcohol contributed to the **death of Amnon**, 2 Samuel 13:28-29.
- Alcohol contributed to the death of King Elah, who was killed while “*drinking himself drunk*,” I Kings 16:8-10.

Alcohol's Effects – continued

- Consider its Effects on Ephraim, Isaiah 28:1,3,7-8.
- Consider its Effects on Judah, Joel 3:3.
- Renders people unable to distinguish between holy and unholy, Leviticus 10:8-11.
- It **deceives**, Proverbs 20:1.
- It produces **Woes**, Proverbs 23:29-32.
- It causes **Addiction**, Proverbs 23:33-35.

Drunkenness is **Condemned!**

- Habakkuk 2:15.
- Romans 13:13-14.
- I Corinthians 5:11.
- Galatians 5:19-21.
- Ephesians 5:18.
- I Peter 4:1-4.

The Bible **Condemns Drug Use and Abuse in General!**

- Galatians 5:20, "*witchcraft*," (KJV) or "*sorcery*" (NKJV).
- Revelation 21:8, "sorcerers."
- From *pharmakia*; it signifies **the use of drugs**.
- Vine: "Primarily signified the use of medicine, drugs, spells."
Harper's Bible Dict. Sorcerers "knew how to use herbs, potions and drugs"
- **Two drug dealers**: Acts 8:9; Acts 13:6-8.

Psychoactive Drugs – used for pleasure or enhancing recreational experience:

- Tobacco: Contains nicotine & beta-carboline alkaloids. Causes addiction. And cancer, heart disease, emphysema, hormonal problems, chronic bronchitis, pulmonary disease, etc.
- Marijuana: a "gateway" drug. Driving **while stoned** is as dangerous as driving **while drunk!**

Psychoactive Drugs – continued:

- Cocaine and Methamphetamine (stimulants) – increase heart rate while constricting the blood vessels. Can cause cardiac arrhythmias and strokes, etc.
- Heroin: Can cause permanent kidney damage and death.

The Impairment Level Illustrated:

- Two beers in one hour can put one at a .08 percent alcohol level (too drunk to drive).
- **One joint** is equal to the impairment level of **three beers**.
- **One dose of Mescaline** = **five beers**.
- **One snort of Cocaine** = **seven beers**.
- **One Ecstasy pill** = **six beers**.

Why Drug Use and Abuse is Sinful:

- **Condemned** by every scripture which forbids drunkenness.
- **Harmful to health**, I Corinthians 6:19-20.
- **Violates law of land**, Romans 13:1.
- **Causes addiction**, I Corinthians 9:27.
- **Generally leads to lying**, Revelation 21:8
- **Often leads to stealing**, Ephesians 4:28.
- **Leads to neglect** of Bible study, worship, etc.
- **Violates golden rule**, Matthew 7:12.
- **Harms influence** for good, Matthew 5:16; 18:6-7

What to do About Drug Use:

- **Never Start!** – the life of a drug addict is a life of guilt, despair, sorrow, death, etc.
- For those **Who are “On drugs:”**
 - **Repent!** Luke 13:3,5; II Corinthians 7:10.
 - Realize that Jesus, not drugs, is the answer to one’s every need! Philippians 4:13; Romans 8:31,37; I Corinthians 10:13.
 - **Obey the Lord**, Hebrews 5:9; Matthew 7:21.