

Guard Rails Part One

Calgary Life Church

October 21st 2018

This week our government legalized the recreational use of cannabis. The impact of this decision will surely effect generations to come. As a Christ-follower what should my stance be in relationship to this or any other mind-altering substance, legal or illegal? What wisdom and guidelines do the Scriptures offer? Can a Christ-follower partake on occasion as one would a glass of wine? If it's legal, does that make it moral?

The apostle Paul gave the church in Ephesus some of the most profound principles of Scripture to help them navigate the difficult issues they had to wrestle with in their time. These principles are no less valid today, and will give you the tools to help you make the best decisions for your life.

But isn't Marijuana Healthy Because It's A Natural Plant?

So are hemlock and tobacco. In fact there are over 100 natural plants that will kill you if you inhale or ingest them.

I could tell you the facts:

- It will damage your brain
- Change the way a user's brain works up to age of 25
- Negative impact on memory and attention.
- Shrinks the thalamus, the part of the brain that's involved in consciousness and information processing.
- Loss of memory, attention, and learning.
- Users have a higher incidence of schizophrenia than non-users, especially if there was a family history.
- It's addictive and a gateway drug
- 9% of people who use marijuana develop an addiction
- 17% in people who begin using in their teens
- A new study of marijuana drug use in Colorado found increases in marijuana-related traffic deaths, hospital visits, school suspensions.

Guardrails: direct and protect

- A system designed to keep vehicles from straying into dangerous or off-limit areas.
- Bridges – going off the edge
- Medians – protecting you from oncoming traffic, or vice versa
- Curves- changes in the road ahead
- **Never** placed in the danger zone.
- Takes up some safe place.
- Designed to minimize damage.

TEXT:

Eph. 5:15-18 NIV

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,

Wisdom serves as the decision-making template.

“In light of my _____ experiences, my current _____ and my _____ hopes and dreams what is the _____ choice for me to do?”

Paul then gives an example – drunkenness.

Which leads to...

What did it lead you to?

Who did it lead you to?

Where did it lead you to ?

1Cor. 6:12 NLT

You say, “I am allowed to do anything” —but not everything is good for you. And even though “I am allowed to do anything,” I must not become a slave to anything.