

August 8, 2021

Title: Cannabis and the Christian – Ephesians 5:15-21

Big Idea: Christians need to think biblically about marijuana now that it is no longer illegal

What in the message stood out to you?

What unanswered questions do you have?

- Early in the sermon, certain percentages showed that marijuana use is on the rise. Reasoning for this could be found in the availability of marijuana use now that it is beginning to become legal. Why is it important for us to have a Christian response to marijuana use?
 - Cannabis statistics:
 - 11.5% men 19-30 daily; 29.5% monthly; 42.7% annually
 - 7.6% women 19-30 daily; 24.1% monthly; 39.9% annually
 - Teens monthly: 6.6% 8th grade; 18.4% 10th grade; 22.3% 12th grade
- There is a difference between alcohol use and marijuana use. We cannot simply trade “wine” for “marijuana” and “drunkenness” for “getting high.” Why is it important to know what marijuana is and what it does to the body before we discuss it?
- A large myth surrounding marijuana use is that it is “non-addictive.” When we look at what addiction is, we come away understanding that marijuana is simply “less addictive.” How has a clearer understanding of what addiction is altered your perspective after hearing this sermon?
- The effects of marijuana use on the lungs and the brain are very evident. What are some of the factors that stood out to you during your reading over the effects of marijuana on the mind and the body?
- For many Christians in the past, the disdain for marijuana was found in its illegality. Because it was illegal, it was off limits. What are the dangers of equating the civil law of the land with God’s moral will?
- Some people note that God created cannabis, and all of God's creation is good. While there is truth in that statement, does it justify all uses of cannabis? Why or why not?
- Paul was clear on how to address addiction. Will what we partake in master or enslave us? If anything other than Christ is the head of our lives, it becomes sinful. How can this understanding of addiction help us to make decisions about marijuana use?
- If alcohol is treated as a gift in the Scriptures, moderate use being celebrated and excessive use being condemned, can the same be said for marijuana? Why or why not?
- Being sober-minded is biblical. If the end result of marijuana use is getting high, how does marijuana use put us in conflict with sober-mindedness? Do you have to be high on

marijuana in order to lose sober-mindedness? Can a user lose sober-mindedness without being high?

- Because of its increase in recreational use among the general population, we probably know someone that has used marijuana with some level of frequency. What is their attitude like? Do they seem like someone who engages in activity or in passivity?
- The argument for marijuana use as an assistance to better meditation has come up more and more. God, however, calls us to have a better sight and vision of Him. Marijuana distorts. What should the Christian response be to the meditation argument?

Sermon Outline

1. The Requirement: Look carefully how you walk (5:15)

2. The Reason: Because the days are evil (5:16).

3. The Resource: The Spirit of God (5:18)

4. The Rival: Do not get drunk on wine (5:18).

a. Exegesis of 5:18

b. Why should we think about marijuana?

c. The Law

d. How does Marijuana work?

e. What are the risks?

- i. Is marijuana addictive: Yes.
- ii. Smoke from cannabis combustion has been shown to contain many of the same toxins, irritants and carcinogens as tobacco smoke.
- iii. The American Heart Association warns against use.
- iv. Teen and adolescent cannabis use interferes with brain development.
- v. There is a growing body of evidence that links marijuana use with psychosis, mental illness, and violent behavior.
- vi. American Academy of Pediatrics give stern warnings against use during pregnancy.
- vii. Cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome – Uncontrollable nausea and vomiting
- viii. There is often a question of whether marijuana is a gateway drug.
- ix. Pot use hurts personal ambition.

f. What does the Bible say? Three points

- i. God made everything. And everything he made is good.
- ii. It is possible to misuse God's good creation.
- iii. The Christian life is to be lived intentionally, with no divided loyalties or double-mindedness. Consider Rom 12:1-2.

g. Five Discipleship questions

- i. Is there any reason to smoke pot recreationally other than to get high?
- ii. Can you be sober-minded while smoking pot?
- iii. Will THC diminish my ability to honor Christ in my thinking?
- iv. Will THC diminish my ability to honor Christ in my actions?
- v. Will THC enhance my ability to commune with God?

h. A couple words about Medical Marijuana

5. The Result: Joyful, Thankful, and Submissive Living (5:19-20)