



Issue 2: What about Weed?

Proverbs 14:34, Galatians 5:19-21

Wednesday, October 4, 2023 • Pastor Josiah Kagin

Introduction:

There are many *cultural* debates today that we are facing that we must consider through the lenses of Scripture—we need a Biblical worldview. Subjects like gender, the legalization of drug use, parental rights over children, the sacredness of all human life both unborn and aged and the list continues. The citizens of Ohio are facing a decision beginning on October 11 as to whether the recreational use of marijuana should be legalized. As followers of Christ, we have the God-given responsibility and opportunity to voice our belief at the ballot box. Does the God's Word have anything to say either directly or in principle that would help us cast a God-pleasing vote?

OHIO ISSUE 2 — to commercialize, regulate, legalize, and tax the adult use of Cannabis (Marijuana).¹

1. Marijuana and Its _____

A. What is Marijuana?

Marijuana refers to the dried leaves, flowers, stems, and seeds from the *Cannabis sativa* or *Cannabis indica* plant. Marijuana is a psychoactive drug that contains close to 500 chemicals, including THC, a mind-altering compound that causes harmful health effects.

People smoke marijuana in hand-rolled cigarettes, in pipes or water pipes, in blunts, and by using vaporizers that pull THC from the marijuana. Marijuana can also be mixed in food (edibles), such as brownies, cookies, and candy, or brewed as a tea. People also smoke or eat different forms of marijuana extracts, which deliver a large amount of THC and can be potentially more dangerous.²

¹ <https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/2023/gen/issuesreport.pdf>

² <https://www.samhsa.gov/marijuana>

scan for PDF
sermon notes



NOTE — Over the past few decades, the amount of THC in marijuana has steadily climbed; today's marijuana has three times the concentration of THC compared to 25 years ago. The higher the THC amount, the stronger the effects on the brain—likely contributing to increased rates of marijuana-related emergency room visits.³

NOTE — The *primary intent* of using marijuana is to get *stone* or get *high*.

B. What are some _____ of Marijuana? ^{4,5}

NOTE — When Colorado legalized recreational marijuana, they not only saw an increase in drug use among minors and drug-related car accidents, but they also saw an increase in minority incarceration rates.⁶

BIRTH _____ AND DEPENDENCY⁷

INCREASED DANGER TO _____⁸

PROBABILITY OF _____⁹

WORKPLACE _____¹⁰

IMPAIRED _____¹¹

INCREASE OF CRIME AND _____¹²

A 2013 paper in an Italian psychiatric journal examined almost 1,600 psychiatric patients in southern Italy and found that cannabis use was associated with a ten-fold increase in violence.¹³

MENTAL DISORDERS¹⁴

³ <https://www.samhsa.gov/marijuana>

⁴ <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/does-marijuana-use-affect-driving>

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/health-effects/index.html>

⁶ https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5fce5393c1e311104da811e6/1650bc150d299c70e448f09d7/1695269202508/Nov7_Issues1and2_Flyer+%282-up%29.pdf

⁷ <https://www.samhsa.gov/marijuana/marijuana-pregnancy>

⁸ <https://imprimis.hillisdale.edu/marijuana-mental-illness-violence/>

⁹ 3. <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/prevalence-marijuana-use-among-us-adults-doubles-over-past-decade>

¹⁰ 4. <https://www.foxbusiness.com/lifestyle/positive-marijuana-tests-following-workplace-accidents-highest-25-years>

¹¹ <https://exchange.aaa.com/safety/substance-impaired-driving/cannabis-driving/>

¹² <https://imprimis.hillisdale.edu/marijuana-mental-illness-violence/>

¹³ <https://imprimis.hillisdale.edu/marijuana-mental-illness-violence/>

¹⁴ <https://imprimis.hillisdale.edu/marijuana-mental-illness-violence/>

After an exhaustive review, the National Academy of Medicine found in 2017 that “cannabis use is likely to increase the risk of developing schizophrenia and other psychoses; the higher the use, the greater the risk.” Also that “regular cannabis use is likely to increase the risk for developing social anxiety disorder.”

2. Marijuana and The _____

A. A Common Argument

Genesis 1:29–30 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. 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

DEFINITION—MEAT: food, nourishment

DIDN'T GOD _____ MARIJUANA?

Genesis 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

DEFINITION—GOOD: having desirable or positive qualities; especially those suitable for a thing specified.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

NOTE — Because of the fall of man, sinful man often takes what God created and uses to his own hurt and destruction.

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: And whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

B. A Work of the _____

Galatians 5:19–21 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which

I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

DEFINITION—WITCHCRAFT: sorcery; potion-making; sorcery especially exercised through the mixture of substances to make potions; especially used of poison-making.

See Revelation 9:20–21

QUOTE: By calling these things “acts of the flesh,” the apostle Paul is showing how they originate from our sinful nature and not from the Holy Spirit. As Christians, we should act in ways that are pleasing to the Holy Spirit. Smoking marijuana is not a Spirit-filled activity. —Tim Clinton, Guide to Addictions and Recovery Counseling

1 Peter 4:3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

DEFINITION—REVELLINGS: binge parties

Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

DEFINITION—DRUNK: *inebriated or intoxicated; to be or become stupefied or excited by alcohol.*

1 Corinthians 6:13 Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Conclusion

Proverbs 4:15 Avoid it, pass not by it, Turn from it, and pass away.

Romans 14:23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.



Grace Baptist Church • 2901 Galewood St. • Kettering, OH. 45420
gracebaptistofkettering.org • 937.293.7500 • Pastor Josiah Kagin