

# San Juan Church of Christ

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## What Does God's Word Say About... Marijuana Drug Use

As a new era of legal marijuana emerges in the United States, most recently Colorado, Christians can no longer use the Biblical principle in Romans 13:1-2. However, we cannot violate the law given to us in God's word when Peter and the apostles said, "We must obey God rather than men," (Acts 5:29). There are many scriptures that speak of wine and drunkenness, most notably in Proverbs 23:29-35. The Bible does not speak as directly to the use of drugs such as cannabis, which is nowhere mentioned in either the Old or New Testament. The best scripture used relating to the abuse of drugs is when Paul said, "walk by the Spirit [the word of God], and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another," (Gal. 5:16-17). Paul then lists the deeds of the flesh in verses 19-21, of which we need to take special note of sorcery/witchcraft. Sorcery is from the Greek word, "pharmakia", the same word from which we derive the English word "pharmacy." In addition to the previous verses, the book of Revelation lists sorcery as one of the sins for which the unrepentant will suffer the wrath of God (Rev. 9:21, 18:23). The Biblical meaning of sorcery refers to the use of drugs in the context of witchcraft, which is clearly condemned.

The argument by many to justify marijuana use is that everything God created is good, and this includes hemp. "Then God said, 'Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you,' (Gen. 1:29). Everything God created is good, but all of the good things can be turned into evil by men. Sexual relations in marriage is good but adultery is evil. Hemp is good for making rope but bad for smoking, etc.

This article is not considering drugs prescribed by a doctor for medical purposes (1 Tim. 5:23), however prescribed drugs can be abused as well. We are discussing mind-altering drugs used for social purposes (partying, peer pressure), to escape reality, or just to enjoy the intoxicating affect of the drug. Those who allow a chemical to rule them lack self-control, a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:23), and the discipline to bring their body into subjection to God's word as Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 9:24-27. God's word calls "those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires...are like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed...they count it as a pleasure to revel in the daytime...these are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved. For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires...promising them [fellow peers] freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved," (2 Pet. 2:12-19).

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:  
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