

What's Wrong With Weed?

by Bryan Matthew Dockens

Eroding social standards notwithstanding, it remains a violation of divine will to consume marijuana. Here's why:

God enjoins sobriety. Repeatedly, it is written, "Be sober" (1 Thess. 5:6-8; 1 Pet. 1:13; 5:8). Sobriety is an awareness of mind which requires, at a minimum, abstinence from mind-altering substances. No one under the influence of marijuana meets God's expectations in this matter.

God demands self-control. The fruit of the Spirit includes self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). And self-control is among the things a Christian must add to faith (2 Pet. 1:5-6). Deliberately distorting one's perception of reality certainly diminishes personal restraint.

God forbids intoxication. Drunkenness is among the works of the flesh that result in condemnation (Galatians 5:19-21). It's acceptable for drunkenness to be among the behaviors of one's past lifetime, but not among one's current activities (1 Pet. 4:3). The injunction against drunkenness has less to do with substance than effect. Whether one is drunk on beverage alcohol or high on cannabis, the Lord disapproves.

The consequences of alcoholic intoxication include the facts that your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things (Proverbs 23:33). How much more is this true of pot smoking than wine drinking? Seeing strange things does harm to one's ability to see spiritual danger as required by the command to be vigilant (1 Peter 5:8)

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