

Why We Don't Use Drugs

John Isaac Edwards

According to Partnership for Drug-Free Kids (Drug & Alcohol Fact Sheet):

- “90% of all adults with drug or alcohol problems started using before the age of 18, and half before 15.”
- “On an average day, 7,540 adolescents 12-17 drank alcohol for the first time, 4,365 used an illicit drug, 2,466 abused a prescription pain medication (without a prescription) and 263 were admitted to treatment for marijuana dependence, more than any other drug.”
- “78% of teens say they have friends who use marijuana regularly.”
- “11 million American adolescents and young adults ages 12-29 need help with drug and alcohol problems; 9 million of these are between the ages of 12-25.”

A National Survey on Drug Use and Health by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, revised June 2015, reveals:

- Illicit drug use in the United States has been increasing.
- Most people use drugs for the

first time when they are teenagers.

- More than half of new illicit drug users begin with marijuana.
- Drug use is highest among people in their late teens and twenties.
- Drug use is increasing among people in their fifties and early sixties.

According to the University of Michigan, 2014 Monitoring the Future Study, top drugs among 8th and 12th graders are: Marijuana/Hashish, Adderall, Synthetic Marijuana, Vicodin, Tranquilizers, Cough Medicine, Sedatives, Hallucinogens, MDMA (ecstasy), OxyContin, Cocaine, Inhalants, Salvia, and Ritalin.

While we do not oppose the proper use of over-the counter drugs or drugs prescribed by a competent physician to correct an imbalance of a person's body chemistry which affects his or her health, or to give protection against disease, tensions, fatigue or pain, we do not use drugs (legal or illegal) for non-medical reasons in an attempt to

influence the mind and body, alter the emotions, change the senses or to escape from reality. Here's why:

1) ***They Harm the Body and Mind.*** “Using any street drug in any amount abuses your nervous system by forcing it either to do something which is not normal for it to do or to not do something which is a normal function. Alcohol starves the brain by blocking the use of glucose. Barbiturates block the message transmissions in the brain, causing depression. Hallucinogens stimulate uncontrolled brain impulses. Narcotics block receptors for transmitters in nerves and thus effectively shut down impulses. Research shows that those who are concerned about their well-being are least likely to harm their bodies and minds by using drugs” (A Healthier You, p. 207). We are to take care of the body and mind (Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Rom. 8:7; Phil. 4:8).

2) ***They Inflict Harm to Others.*** Drugs not only

affect the health of the user but often cause behavior that threatens the safety of others. Think of those who have been murdered by drug addicts who have built up such a tolerance to drugs that they commit crime and violence to pay for their habit! We are to be concerned about others (Mt. 7:12; Phil. 2:4).

3) **They Bring Premature Death.** The toll of substance abuse can be measured in lives. "Drug-related deaths have more than doubled since the early 1980s. There are more deaths, illness, and disabilities from substance abuse than from any other preventable health condition. Today, one in four deaths is attributable to alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use" (National Institute on Drug Abuse). Life at its longest is brief (Jas. 4:14). Don't shorten it by drug use!

4) **They Are Surrounded by Evil.** Illicit drugs and alcohol are partners in crime. One half to two-thirds of homicides and serious

assaults involve alcohol. About half of men arrested for homicide and assault test positive for illicit drugs. "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Th. 5:22).

5) **They Are Not the Answer to Happiness and Fulfillment.** Darrell Porter, star of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team, spent thousands of dollars for the pleasure and excitement cocaine seemed to offer. When telling his story, he stressed that "drugs are a lie and a cheat, because they tell you there is a quick, chemical shortcut to happiness and fulfillment. It just isn't true. I tried them, and I know." Porter later died from the toxic effects of cocaine! Drugs are not the answer — the Lord is! (Jn. 16:33; Phil. 4:4-7, 13).

6) **They Are Addicting.** They cause psychological dependence or addiction. The body of the user can no longer function properly without the drug. If it is suddenly withdrawn, the body goes through a painful

and sometimes deadly withdrawal sickness which may last hours or days. Paul said, "...I will not be brought under the power of any" (1 Cor. 6:12).

7) **They Keep One from Being Sober-Minded.** We are taught to be sober (1 Th. 5:6, 8). To be sober or sober-minded is to be calm, even tempered, cautious, circumspect, and wise in the full use of the mind and body under all circumstances to the point that good sense is shown in all judgment, reason, and understanding.

8) **They Keep One Out of Heaven.** The word translated "witchcraft" in Galatians 5:20 is from "pharmakeia" meaning, "drugging, or the abuse of drugs." Thus, those who use drugs "shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal. 5:21). We want to go to Heaven!

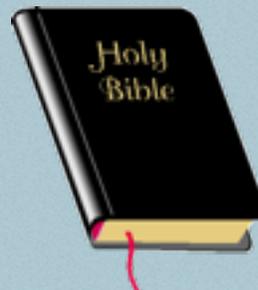
As championed by First Lady Nancy Reagan, "Just say no"!

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

Assembling At:
4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
West on Margaret DR 1 mile]

Assembling Times:
Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com