

If God Made Everything Good, Why Shouldn't I Smoke Pot?

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In Genesis 1:31, God called everything he'd made "very good." So does this mean we can use the earth and its resources however we choose? We must keep in mind that God pronounced creation good before the curse of sin. When Adam and Eve rebelled, they brought sin into the world; this resulted in many negative consequences ranging from the entry of death to the rise of thorns (see Gn 3:6-24). However good the world was before the fall, it became less good after it. God's good works are now tainted (see Rm 8:19-22).

Some people justify the recreational use of pot on the basis that marijuana, *Cannabis Sativa*, is a herb God made. The plant from which the drug is obtained is a variety of hemp. Hemp is a useful plant that can still be called "good" in many ways. Its fiber is one of the strongest in the plant kingdom and is often used to make fabric and rope. Hemp is a hardy plant that can grow in many different climates; it's good for the soil; and it's easy for farmers to grow and harvest. Hemp seeds have tremendous nutritional value and only contain trace amounts of the chemical tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) that can cause one to get high should a person consume the chemical in abundance. Hemp seeds are used in dozens of food and personal hygiene products. Furthermore, THC itself has potential as a medicine to benefit people with ailments ranging from glaucoma to cancer to AIDS. Clearly hemp itself is good, but like many good things on this planet cursed by sin, the plant gets misused and abused.

When marijuana is ingested or smoked, it can impair users' minds, leading to foolish and reckless actions. Such use may even prove toxic, and it can have several negative consequences:

1. Possession of any amount of marijuana is illegal in many states and countries and can result in fines and jail time. Christians should not break the law unless that law is inconsistent with Scripture (Rm 13:1).
2. Getting high on any psychoactive drug, including marijuana, may impair one's judgment. Christians should remain sober and clear headed in order to avoid spiritual deception (Rm 12:2; 1Pt 1:13; 5:8).
3. The abuse of pot is known to keep people from reaching their potential. We should give our best to God; we exist for his glory (1Co 10:31).
4. Although not physically addictive, pot can be habit forming. Using drugs will not make one's problems disappear; in fact, doing so will often create more problems. No problem is too great for God to handle. Christ is our help (Mt 11:28-30). Wise is the individual who takes his frustrations to the Lord.