

A person with long brown hair, wearing glasses, a brown patterned scarf, and a black leather jacket, is seen from the back and side, looking out over a body of water at sunset. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, and the water is dark with white-capped waves in the distance.

JOHN 14:16

# *You are not Alone*

STUDIES ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

# Nothing New



# Nothing New



# A Few Questions

- 1. The government and society now says it is ok to buy and smoke pot. So is it ok for a follower of Jesus?**
- 2. What's the harm in a little fun, to unwind, to get a buzz and relax?**
- 3. The bible condemned drunkenness but not moderation. Is it the same with pot? I can have a glass of wine or a beer, what about a joint? A brownie? Just a toké?**





# My Audience

- **Not a university campus**
- **Not youth downtown on the street**
- **Church audience**
  - **Sincere followers of Jesus**
  - **Followers of Jesus? Sort of???**
  - **Seekers – what's it about?**



# The Correlation

- **There are many things in the modern world that the ancient scriptures don't specifically address but the principles apply very well**
- **What the bible says about alcohol applies to drugs.**



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## **“What Fills Me?”**





JOHN 14:16

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**“What Fills Me?”**

**A Biblical Response to The  
Legalization of Pot**

**Ephesians 5:15-21**

# 1. Begin With Christ

The book of Ephesians is structured like the book of Romans:

Chapters 1-3 - **Done!** – all that Christ accomplished

Chapters 4-6 – **Do!** – What it looks like to follow Jesus



# 1. Begin With Christ

Done!

*“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. **Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit**, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s **possession—to the praise of his glory.**” (Ephesians 1:13–14, NIV84)*



# 1. Begin With Christ

Done!

**The follower of Jesus is:**

- ✓ **A Child of the king!**
- ✓ **Inheritor of all things in Christ**
- ✓ **Indwelt by the Holy Spirit**

**You are not Alone!**





# 1. Begin With Christ

## Done!

*“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”* (Ephesians 3:14–21, NIV84)



## 2. Live Out What You Are!

### Do!

*“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.” (Ephesians 4:1, NIV84)*

*“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 5:1–2, NIV84)*



## 2. Live Out What You Are!

### Do!

*“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. **Therefore do not be partakers with them;** for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. And **do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;**”*  
(Ephesians 5:6–11, NASB)





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**“What Fills Me?”**

**A Biblical Response to The  
Legalization of Pot**

**Ephesians 5:15-21**

## 2. Live Out What You Are!

*“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”* (Ephesians 5:15–21, ESV)



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*“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And*

*do not get drunk with wine,”*

- ❖ Command to not do something
- ❖ or beer or hard liquor or drugs
- ❖ Get drunk = have enough that it fills you, controls you , to saturate, to drench



## 2. Live Out What You Are!

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*do not get drunk with wine,*

*for that is debauchery,*

- ❖ Why? It leads to something
- ❖ Debauchery = *behavior which shows lack of concern or thought for the consequences of an action—‘senseless deeds, reckless deeds, recklessness.*





## 2. Live Out What You Are!

*“Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine. Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly! In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper.” (Proverbs 23:29–32, NIV84)*

**Just substitute wine for Pot**



## 2. Live Out What You Are!

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*but be filled with the Spirit,*

- ❖ *A command to let something happen to you*
- ❖ *Filled = Generously supplied, complete , full , finished , satisfied*
- ❖ *Think back to the beginning verses we read:.*
- ❖ *Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,”*
- ❖ *“that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God”*



## 2. Live Out What You Are!

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*but be filled with the Spirit,*

*addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,*

*singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,*

*giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

*submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”* (Ephesians 5:15–21, ESV)



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*but be filled with the Spirit,*

*You have the Spirit – Let the Spirit have all of You !*



# 3. What About Freedom?

- ❖ **God created everything including the Cannabis plant**
- ❖ **Like any drug there will be good and valuable uses and God uses doctors and medicines to heal**
- ❖ **Cannot address all the subtle nuances of medical uses**
- ❖ **Beware of what is claimed.**
- ❖ **Coffee cause cancer, prevents cancer, etc. etc.**
- ❖ **Unsure? Please talk to us!**



# 3. What About Freedom?

**1. The government and society now says it is ok to buy and smoke pot.**

**So is it ok for a follower of Jesus?**

- **Since when does the culture or government set the standards for right and wrong? Our culture says it is ok to:**
- **Get drunk , get high**
- **Commit adultery , Be sexually permissive**
- **Be greedy and accumulate wealth at the expense of the poor etc. etc.**
- **We are incredibly broken and getting worse not better!**





# 3. What About Freedom?

- 2. What's the harm in a little fun, to unwind, to get a buzz and relax?
- 3. The bible condemned drunkenness but not moderation. Is it the same with pot? I can have a glass of wine or a beer, what about a joint? A brownie? Just a toké?
- ❖ The question is: What is the intent????



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- ❖ You can make a fair argument for a glass of white wine with your white meat. There is flavor and taste. Or a cold beer on a hot day.
  - ❖ The purpose can be taste, flavor, and it can be said to be relaxing
  - ❖ What is the flavor of a joint or a toké? What is the purpose?
  - ❖ To enjoy the smoke in your lungs??? You eat it because it tastes good? Really????



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- ❖ The intent of drugs is a high – what ever degree of high
- ❖ If I begin to rationalize - if I eat just this much of a brownie then I'm not really high - just relaxed ... what am I saying? What door am I opening?



# 3. What About Freedom?

- ❖ If I drink or smoke or eat brownies to relax what is really going on?
- ❖ If I need a substance to complete me, fill me, help me deal with life, to relax and enjoy – Then is The Holy Spirit – God Himself is not enough?
- ❖ The basic premise cannot be:
- ❖ “What can I get away with?”                      but
- ❖ “How can I walk in the Spirit?”



### 3. What About Freedom?

*“Everything is permissible for me”—but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible for me”—but I will not be mastered by anything.” (1 Corinthians 6:12, NIV84)*

*“You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.” (Galatians 5:13, NIV84)*



# 3. What About Freedom?

**Am I desperate for the filling that only the Holy Spirit can give?**



# 3. What About Freedom?

- Please go home today and take ½ hour to read Ephesians
  - Think about all Jesus has done and what you have in Him
  - Pray over what it says we should do
  - Then consider this topic!





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JOHN 14:16

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## **Stand and Read Together**

**Ephesians 5:15-21 Pew Bible pg. 829**