

Smoking and Drinking

People make this way more complicated than it has to be. I want to try and break this down so it is very clear what is OK, and what is not OK. Please read all the way through! People also take one scripture and base their entire belief system off of it, yet they ignore the rest of the Bible so they can justify their actions. Let me explain....

Will I go to Hell just because I drink or smoke?
Have you ever asked God what He thinks about it?

Is it a sin to drink and smoke?

No

Is it a sin to get drunk or high?

Yes

Confused already? That sounds like a contradiction. Let me explain....

The following scripture is regarding food that was formerly deemed spiritually unclean to eat....

8 "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 9 They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules." 10 Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. 11 What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them." **Matthew 15:7-11**

Jesus is VERY clear in this scripture. Taking weed or beer into your body is NOT what makes you unclean. But what comes out of your mouth shows what is in your heart. ATTITUDE is the key word. It's all about the condition of your heart!!!

Being drunk and being high on drugs is called being inebriated or intoxicated. In my past, I was an alcoholic, addicted to marijuana, and tried every drug except crack. I also did hallucinogens like acid and mushrooms. From this point on, whenever a scripture mentions being drunk, I want you to include any other drug, and apply those to the scripture as well. Anything that applies to being drunk applies to being high.

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit"
Ephesians 5:18

"Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise."
Proverbs 20:1

Drunks and addicts cannot go to Heaven...read it for yourself.

*"Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor **drunkards** nor slanderers nor swindlers **will inherit the kingdom of God**. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. "*

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

So why does scripture say that what goes into your mouth does not defile you, but now it says that if you are a drunkard you can't go to Heaven? Still confused?

*"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." **Galatians 5:13-14***

Again, regarding food, *"Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak..... When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall."*

1 Corinthians 9:13

Is having one beer a sin?

No

Then why can't I drink or get high?

You and I may very well have enough self-control to only have one beer, or to not act-a-fool from one joint. BUT others may not have that self control. If someone sees me have one beer, it may lead them to destruction because they do not have the same self-control that I have. If they become a drunkard, they will go to Hell, and their blood will be on my hands.

So is it ok to have one or two beers in the privacy of my own home?

Only God can answer that.

Why? Some would say that it is being a hypocrite. "So, its ok for you to have a beer, but it's not ok for me to have a beer." Common sense would tell you that if you have to do something in secret, and you don't want anyone else to know about it, it may not be a good thing to do. Please seek the Lord in this area and get your own answer.

Whatever choice we make, we are not allowed to judge the choice of another.

¹⁶ So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a ^[l]festival or a new moon or sabbaths, ¹⁷ which are a shadow of things to come, but the ^[k]substance is of Christ.”

Colossians 2:16-17

*“Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause (reason) to fall in our brother’s way. ¹⁴ I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that **there is nothing unclean of itself**; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. ¹⁵ Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. ¹⁶ Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; ¹⁷ for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. ¹⁹ Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. ²⁰ Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense. ²¹ **It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.**”*

Romans 14:13-21

Nothing is unclean. No food, no drink, no medicine, no drug. They all have some purpose or proper use. Damage comes when they are used as a substitute or counterfeit of what God can offer through His Holy Spirit. And even drinking a beer would be acceptable to God, as long as it causes no one else to stumble. However, it is not necessary to do these things. We can come to God for those feelings of pleasure.

*“You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy;
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”*

Psalms 16:11

Yes, we have freedom in Christ Jesus to do all things, but all things are not good for us to do.....This verse is regarding sexual sins...

“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything. You say, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.” The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.”

1 Corinthians 6:12-17

Your body is a member of CHRIST HIMSELF and you are the living temple of God!!!

"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves."

Romans 13:1-2

Weed is illegal. Other drugs are illegal. If you do anything illegal, you are sinning against God.

So what about speeding in your car or not paying your taxes? Is that sin?

YES!!!

Doing anything illegal IS A SIN. Period.

What about that "seed bearing plants" verse?

"Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food." Genesis 1:29

God said, "They will be yours for FOOD."

God did NOT say, "They will be yours to SMOKE or get HIGH."

"If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?"

Hebrews 10:26-29

If I feel convicted for getting drunk or high, and I make a mistake and do it again, will I go to Hell?

NO

If I feel convicted for getting drunk or high, and I harden my heart towards God, and make a conscious decision to get drunk or high on a regular basis, and I do not repent and turn away from that sin.....will I go to Hell?

Yes

Why? Because of the condition of your heart!!!

Sometimes, we make mistakes, and feel conviction. This is not willful sin.

When we willfully sin, we make a lifestyle out of it, ignoring conviction, and choosing sin.

26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.... 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?"

Hebrews 10:26-29

When Jesus died on the cross and rose again, he defeated sin and death. This is where your freedom comes from. Freedom to do all things. No matter how many sins you commit, His blood covers them all! But if you continue to choose sin over God's commands, then you spit in the face of God and show contempt for the amazing sacrifice Jesus made for us!!!

" We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did." 1 John 2:3-6

Did Jesus drink wine? Yes

Did Jesus turn water into wine? Yes

In those days, they had to add wine to the water to kill bacteria. And it was also accepted in that culture, and used as a regular everyday beverage to have with meals. If it would have caused another person to sin, Jesus would **NOT** have drank.

Did Jesus smoke weed or do drugs? No

If you make a mistake and you feel convicted, and then you make an honest effort to turn away from that sin, you are instantly forgiven. God knows your heart, and he knows if you are repentant or if you are not.

If you continue to choose a lifestyle that scripture says leads to Hell, including drunkenness/addiction, then that is exactly where it will lead you; to Hell. Period.

If you have lived a lifestyle of drinking or doing other drugs, there is forgiveness, healing, and deliverance. Just cry out to the Lord and ask Him to set you free. Seek the help of a trusted deliverance team to help free you from demonic spirits that may be influencing you. Submit to the process of Discipleship and Inner Healing, so that the wounds of the past that caused you to self-medicate will be healed once and for all. Let a mature Christian lead you in the way of Truth, so you will experience the peace and pleasure of fellowship with the living God!!