

Marijuana Fact Sheet

- Marijuana contains hundreds of chemical compounds, but only few found in the resin are responsible for producing the euphoric high (p384).
- The state of euphoria that results from the high is usually mild and short-lived; a typical high from one joint may last from 2 – 3 hours. Subjectively, the user experiences altered perception of space and time, impaired memory of recent events, and impaired physical coordination (p.395).
- Marijuana enthusiasts have a strong attachment to their passionate feelings surrounding the use of marijuana (p. 398).
- Recent research by NIDA shows that heavy marijuana use impairs critical thinking skills related to attention, memory, and learning. (p.400).
- People who are high lack the desire to perform hard work and are not interested in doing difficult tasks or can be called amotivational syndrome (p.401).
- **Medical Use:** marijuana lowers glaucoma-associated intraocular pressure, even though it does not cure the condition, antiseizure effect for those with epilepsy, antidepressant, anti-nauseant, and appetite stimulant (p. 405).
- Problems during intoxication include: impaired short-term memory and ability to learn, difficulty thinking and problem solving, anxiety attacks or feelings of paranoia, impaired muscle coordination and judgment, Cardiac problems mainly for those who have heart disease or hypertension because marijuana increases the heart rate, and psychotic episodes (p. 406).
- **Respiratory problems:** persistent coughing, chest colds common, “researchers report marijuana cigs release five times as much carbon monoxide in the bloodstream and leave three times as much tar in the lungs than regular tobacco cigs” (p.406)
- More than 140 chemicals have been identified in marijuana smoke and tar (p.408).
- **Memory and Learning:** Long term use reduces the ability to organize and integrate complex information. Marijuana impairs short-term memory and decreases motivation to accomplish tasks, even after the high is over (p.406)
- **Fertility:** long-term use suppresses the production of hormones that help regulate the reproductive system. Men may have erectile dysfunction and women can have irregular periods (p.406). Heavy usage can cause neurobehavioral and physical abnormalities as well as premature birth to babies [mostly to the babies whose mother smoked while pregnant]. The drug inhibits ovulation for a female and can cause damage to the chromosomes of germ cells in the male and female (p.409-410).
- **Marijuana as an addictive drug:** withdrawal symptoms include irritability, restlessness, insomnia, and intense dreams. Heavy users need eight times higher doses to get the same effect as infrequent users. People who try to quit report experiencing irritability, sleeping difficulties, craving, and anxiety (p.406).
- Three to four joints a day is about as harmful to your lungs as smoking a pack of cigarettes a day (p.407).

Reference:

Hanson, G. R., Venturelli, P.J., Fleckenstein, A.E. (2012). *Drugs and society*. Burlington, MA:

Jones & Barlett Learning.

A Biblical Standpoint:

- “And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Romans 12:2
- “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” Romans 8:6

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” 1 Cor. 3:16 If you are in Christ, then the Spirit of God dwells in you. What make a person want to destroy that temple (yourself)?

I have not yet come to the understanding at how a people can willfully destroy the temple God created. Smoking marijuana to relieve a headache or smoking to feel the positive high, yet mean while the smoking destroys the lungs and damages the memory; do we have any sanctity for our own bodies? Surely this really hurts God as He watches people kill themselves, and yet the people expect God to understand... what father wants to watch His children destroy themselves? God is love... and rightfully so He lets his children do what they please, but God is also just so He will allow His children to experience their due punishment from participating in sin.

The problem is Satan comes as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14) and as a thief to steal, kill, and destroy. Satan will do ANYTHING to kill ANY person so much that if he had his way, all people would be in Hell. Satan’s desire is for all people to avoid experiencing God and or be with Him in heaven. Satan is the master of trickery and his best lie is “what they don’t know won’t hurt them.” For example, Satan brings drugs in the picture. Most people know that drugs have different side effects and can cause harm to a person’s body. Some people could care less of the side effects of these drugs and proceed to take them anyway. The positive effects of the drugs usually include the positive, euphoric feelings (high) that lead people to forget all their pain and worries. Once a person becomes addicted to the drug(s), he/she most likely continue to use the drug(s) in order to reach the same “high” as before. Undenounced to him/her, their body begins to gain a dependency and tolerance for the drug(s), and in return causes the person to use more.

Satan’s trickery has now turned into a trap. Satan has now placed an individual on a downward spiral of “I need this drug to avoid the withdrawal symptoms,” “this makes me feel so good and I don’t care who I hurt to get it,” “I’m hurting no one but myself,” and “I’m hurting no one at all.” The trick is the FEELINGS over trump the HARM. Once a person focuses on their feelings and how the drugs make him/her “feel” then that person loses self-control and begins to become bitterly selfish. Drug usage will turn a person selfish that lead to the neglect of family, friends, and personal care. This is often why addicts are stuck in DENIAL.

Once Satan has convinced a person that using a drug do no harm, he or she unknowingly starts to take part in the destruction of their own physical body. As Satan “stole” your livelihood with the drug, he now is

“killing” the physical body which shortens a person’s life on earth. The spiritual body, your soul, has also begun to lose focus on the purpose God created for him/her to be due to the dying physical body. As the person uses the drug(s), the soul is being connected to the spirit of *Pharmakeia*. *Pharmakeia* is a Greek word where the English language derived the words “pharmacy” and “pharmaceutical.” *Pharmakeia* is also used in the Bible at Galations 5:19-21 and Revelation 18:23. The word “sorcery” is used in these verses and the Greek translation for this word in these verses is *Pharmakeia*. Reading the bible we know that sorcery is associated with witchcraft and Satanism. Sorcery and witchcraft are the avenues in which people connect to demons in the spirit world. With this direct connection, we find that drugs are an avenue in which demons can directly possess or oppress a person through the usage of a drug(s).

Basically, we find that the soul is what resides within the physical body of every person, and the physical body will depict the connectedness of the spiritual body, your soul. The soul will connect to whatever the physical body partakes or participates in. Your soul needs the physical body in order to remain on earth, and the soul needs the Holy Spirit in order to remain in eternity in heaven. The soul will reside in eternity after the physical body expires. If the soul is not connected to the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ by the time the physical body expires, the soul will spend an eternity elsewhere. If the soul is being connected to the spirit of *Pharmakeia*, then the soul will spend eternity in Hell where the spirit of *Pharmakeia* originated.