

Christians ONLY

Does it
MATTER if I

EXPERIMENT with DRUGS ?

Some people try drugs and say they have no problems. Others experience bad effects very quickly. For many people the harm only shows up after a long period of use. Any substance that alters the way your body works can be risky - become knowledgeable, find out the facts.

Most of us learn by what we do and from the mistakes we make. However, drugs affect our minds and make it more difficult to see what's really happening. We can end up in a haze of confusion and often opt for the quickest, easiest solution.

Taking drugs is not just about health. They affect every area of our lives, our bodies, how we think and feel about ourselves, how we relate to others and how we relate to God.

Hope UK is a drug education
charity working from
a Christian basis.

Our priority is to help
young people to resist
drug misuse in order
to achieve their full
potential in society.

Hope
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We acknowledge the assistance given by Hope UK
and the permission to use their artwork.

Further information
on drug education
and free Resources
is available from:

Alcohol
& tobacco
are **LEGAL**
- so they must be
OK
(1 Cor. 10:23)
but not everything
beneficial.

While some drugs may be legally available (under certain conditions) - not all things are helpful to us or others. Not everything builds us up as people or brings glory to God. A drug does not have to be illegal to be dangerous. Some people consume alcohol with no apparent problems, but literally millions of people are harmed as a result of drinking or smoking.

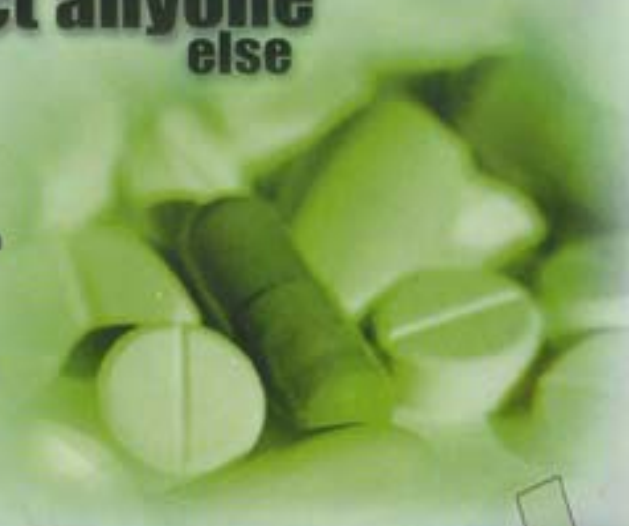
The Bible does say don't get drunk, but it leaves it open for us to drink about drinking. In 1st century Palestine there wasn't the huge amount of drink related problems we have today. In today's world the principle of caring for self and caring for others should encourage everyone to consider the option of being alcohol-free.

My drug taking doesn't affect anyone else

None of us live in isolation - our behaviour affects others. How would you feel if someone you cared about became sick or died from using drugs? Would you feel angry, powerless or guilty? Our example to others is very important. Each of us will influence hundreds or thousands of people in our lifetime.

'It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.'

(Romans 14:21)



The Bible provides us with important guidelines about how to live. God asks us to live out a life that is pleasing to Him.

'You were taught, with regard to your former way of life to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.' *(Eph. 4:22)*

Paul tells us to leave behind our old habits and ways and to live out a new life. In living that new life people will see a difference about us. Sometimes we don't even need to say anything! When we become Christians our actions will often speak louder than words.

Knowing the facts about drugs and the effects that they can have should help you to consider whether these substances encourage a lifestyle Jesus wants us to live.

Do Christians do Drugs?

It's my life - I can do what I like

We live in a 'quick fix' society where *'if it feels good - do it'*. Jesus said that our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit and should therefore be kept healthy and fit for His service. *(1 Cor. 6:19&20)*

Freedom of choice is important - but so are the choices we make. The person whose life ends up by being controlled by drugs has little freedom of choice.

Will drugs help me spiritually?

Genuine religious experiences cannot be obtained by using drugs. The trigger used is chemical and such experiences are artificial and entirely self-centred. An encounter with God requires living in the real world, not obscuring reality.

