

**Christians & Health: Medications**  
**07-09-17 PM**

1 Corinthians 6:9 *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived ....drunkards...will (not) inherit the kingdom of God*

Ephesians 5:18 *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,*

We know that alcohol represents a very real danger to being a Christian and inheriting eternal life. Yet we also know that alcohol of itself is not “evil”, nor is it unclean (*I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself* -Romans 14:14a). In fact, it was NOT unclean under the Mosaic Law. As an intoxicant it even serves a purpose for medical use (Proverbs 31:6, 1 Timothy 5:23), primarily in cultures without more advanced medicines.

The condemnation of alcohol is dissipation. It is the “high” of getting drunk (Isaiah 5:11). For many, they drink to get this high. It is intoxicated for the sake of dissipation. We know that drugs effect the same end. Both drugs & alcohol remove inhibitions; both drugs & alcohol remove self-control. From a biblical conduct standpoint: Alcohol and drugs are effectively the same. Just as drunkenness by alcohol can prevent one from entering the kingdom of heaven, dissipation by drugs can prevent our entry too.

There are various drugs (legal and illegal) that are in use today; for the sake of this lesson, we are looking at those we use in a legal fashion. Drugs used to dull pain or aches– Opioids, muscle relaxants, etc. Drugs used to render senseless or unconscious – Anesthesia. Drugs used to alter moods or behaviors – Stimulants or Depressants. We live in a time where pain is no longer considered something we must bear. Many pain pills are readily available, and almost all are susceptible to abuse for the purpose of dissipation.

**Four Principles of Medication**

1. It is not a sin or even a weakness to use medication to reduce pain or mental anguish
  - Untreated issues can lead to sin
    - Ecclesiastes 11:10
  - We must not judge unrighteously
    - Romans 14:13
  
2. Just because the doctor gave it to you does not mean you are not using it in a sinful way
  - Man’s law does not equal God’s law
  - Man can be unwise in using lawful things
  - Proverbs 3:5
  
3. We must accept the truth that anyone can become sinfully dependent on medications
  - ANYONE can fall prey to a work of the flesh
  - 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 10:12
  
4. We must accept the need for others to be able to see our weaknesses
  - Galatians 6:1-2
  - James 5:16