

CHRISTIANS AND MARIJUANA USE

Well, I suppose that this article had to come about. I've been noticing that in recent years that there has been an upswing in the number of Christians who are promoting the legalization of Marijuana. As someone who experimented with this drug many years ago, I think that I have some experience so that I can testify as to the dangers of the use of this plant whose two major constituents are THC and CBD. There are many compounds in marijuana:

*Pharmacologically, the principal psychoactive constituent of cannabis is tetrahydrocannabinol (THC); it is one of 483 known compounds in the plant, including at least 84 other cannabinoids, such as cannabidiol (CBD), cannabinol (CBN), tetrahydrocannabivarin (THCV), and cannabigerol (CBG).
[Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannabis_%28drug%29]*

Where many people, especially Christian users of Marijuana are misinformed, is that THC is a mind altering compound that produces euphoria, as well as paranoia; whereas CBD is the compound of Marijuana that alters pain and is beneficial as working in other parts of the body and is an excellent anti-nausea drug for people, especially those undergoing chemotherapy. The problem is that people with good intentions, both Christians and unbelievers promote the legalization of Marijuana in general, thinking that it is that plant that produces all of the beneficial effects on the body.

It is interesting that in our current day and age, when many people distrust the government, and rightfully so, claiming that Big-Pharma has its tentacles within the government to enslave the people, these same people are advocates of another drug that has lobbyists whose motive is just as insidious as Big-Pharma. The advocates for legalizing Marijuana always use the "medicinal" aspect of the drug to promote legalization, but numbers wise, most people want it legalized to get high, not for medicinal purposes. Can you see the hypocrisy here?

Many people don't know that Marijuana is a gateway drug. I know that some people will argue with me about that, because they have not advanced to other more powerful drugs, but for every one of them, many can be produced that have moved onto other products. It all has to do with an individual's addiction factor. Some people need a stimulating experience in order to achieve peace within themselves. That is why they like the effects of Marijuana, because it alters their perception of life while they are high. But for some, the excitement of that high wears off because they become dependent on Marijuana and they seek higher and higher doses of

Marijuana until they are no longer satisfied. When this happens, they jump to other drugs that will give them even more euphoria; a better high. Even if Marijuana doesn't present itself as physical gateway drug in some, it is a spiritual gateway drug in everyone that uses it.

I am a nurse, and I prefer to work with patients that have psychiatric problems and/or substance abuse problems. I've seen first-hand how drugs and alcohol destroy a person's life. People often don't realize that drugs, aside from getting people high, can also cause permanent damage to a person's body. With the alcoholic, certain organs like the liver and kidneys are often destroyed. With Marijuana, there is a dramatic effect on the lungs, of course, if it is taken through inhaling the smoke. There are reports that show that Marijuana contains carcinogens which can affect the user if smoked and/or taken orally. As I mentioned earlier, people often try to achieve an elevated "high" so they move to other drugs. What many don't know is that the Marijuana that is produced today is genetically altered. It has been altered to increase the amount of THC that the plant produces. A "joint" of the best Marijuana that could be obtained when I was a teen contains only 1/4 to 1/2 of THC concentration compared to common Marijuana produced today. I find it ironic, if not totally hypocritical that many Marijuana smokers are the sort that complain about GMO foods and preparations while at the same time, they crave the "high" that comes from genetically altered Marijuana plants. After all, isn't genetically altered a GMO? If one wants to fight GMO's one should rightfully want to fight ALL GMO products, and that includes Marijuana.

As I mentioned earlier, there are many compounds that come from Marijuana plants. We will look more at THC and its effects later because I will post a thesis that I did for nursing school regarding Marijuana induced psychosis. There is a beneficial compound of Marijuana which is called cannabidiol (CBD). Here are some of the benefits of CBD that people can get without the "high" that comes from Marijuana:

Antimicrobial actions

CBD absorbed transcutaneously may attenuate the increased sebum production at the root of acne, according to an untested hypothesis.

Neurological effects

A 2010 study found that strains of cannabis containing higher concentrations of cannabidiol did not produce short-term memory impairment vs. strains with similar concentrations of THC, but lower concentrations of CBD. The researchers attributed this

attenuation of memory effects to CBD's role as a CB₁ antagonist. Transdermal CBD is neuroprotective in animals.

Cannabidiol's strong antioxidant properties have been shown to play a role in the compound's neuroprotective and anti-ischemic effects.

Psychotropic effect

CBD has anti-psychotic effects and may counteract the potential psychotomimetic effects of THC on individuals with latent schizophrenia; some reports show it to be an alternative treatment for schizophrenia that is safe and well-tolerated. Studies have shown CBD may reduce schizophrenic symptoms due to its apparent ability to stabilize disrupted or disabled NMDA receptor pathways in the brain, which are shared and sometimes contested by norepinephrine and GABA. Leweke et al. performed a double blind, 4 week, explorative controlled clinical trial to compare the effects of purified cannabidiol and the atypical antipsychotic amisulpride on improving the symptoms of schizophrenia in 42 patients with acute paranoid schizophrenia. Both treatments were associated with a significant decrease of psychotic symptoms after 2 and 4 weeks as assessed by Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale and Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale. While there was no statistical difference between the two treatment groups, cannabidiol induced significantly fewer side effects (extrapyramidal symptoms, increase in prolactin, weight gain) when compared to amisulpride.

Studies have shown cannabidiol decreases activity of the limbic system and decreases social isolation induced by THC. Cannabidiol has also been shown to reduce anxiety in social anxiety disorder.

Chronic cannabidiol administration in rats was found to produce anxiogenic-like effects, indicating that prolonged treatment with cannabidiol might incite anxiogenic effects. Those results have been contested by Gururajan, and contradict Réus, whose experimentation cover the same duration.

Cannabidiol has demonstrated antidepressant-like effects in animal models of depression.

Dravet syndrome

Dravet syndrome is a rare form of epilepsy that is difficult to treat. Dravet syndrome, also known as Severe Myoclonic Epilepsy of Infancy (SMEI), is a rare and catastrophic form of intractable epilepsy that begins in infancy. Initial seizures are most often prolonged events and in the second year of life other seizure types begin to emerge. While high profile and anecdotal reports of results from high-CBD/low-THC preparations have sparked interest in treatment with cannabinoids, there is insufficient medical evidence to

draw conclusions about their safety or efficacy.
[Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannabidiol>]

So, we see that CBD is much more beneficial than THC and we also see that diseases can be treated without opening up doors by using a mind altering compound like THC. I'm assuming that there are some that are now asking how to get the CBD out of the Marijuana plant without getting the effects of THC. This can be done two ways. There is a relative to Marijuana called "Hemp." it has been used for centuries for many things. For many years and even still, rope is made from Hemp. The good thing about Hemp, where medicine is concerned, is that it is high in CBD and has almost no THC. CBD can be extracted from hemp quite easily and is available as an oil. What other things come from hemp?

Hemp (from Old English hænep) is a commonly used term for high-growing varieties of the Cannabis plant and its products, which include fiber, oil, and seed. Hemp is refined into products such as hemp seed foods, hemp oil, wax, resin, rope, cloth, pulp, paper, and fuel. [Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hemp>]

Hemp is a very beneficial plant, especially where the production of CBD is concerned. You get the medical effects of Marijuana without the mild altering effects. People that use Marijuana for medicinal purposes have to ask a serious question. Would they be willing to switch to a compound that can be beneficial and heal and prevent signs and symptoms of disease, OR do they want to continue with Marijuana. If I told you that I could feed you lean steak at every dinner, or I could feed you high fat hamburger at every dinner, which would you choose? A lean steak might taste good and it would be much better for your arteries than a hamburger would, but hamburger tastes good because it contains the fat and fat gives wonderful flavor to meat. Would you choose the healthy choice or the unhealthy one because it tastes better? You feel satisfied with steak, but all that fat in hamburger gives you a euphoric effect. Yes, the high from Marijuana is fun. When it is smoked all of the problems of this world seem to fade away and all is right with the world. You laugh a lot when you smoke pot and besides, it seems that everyone else is smoking it, right? Yes, it has compounds that can be beneficial in healing or prevention of signs and symptoms of disease, but it alters the mind and you give up your free will when you're high. You leave a door open when you give up your will and that open door is open to anything that might want to answer. If you're a believer in Yeshua, you already have him inside, but that open door opens your life up to unwanted beings that want to adversely affect your life and influence you in ways contrary to what Yahweh's will is for your life.

Recently, a genetically altered Marijuana that has been produced in Israel that is high in CBD and has extremely low amounts of THC:

In November 2012, Tikun Olam, an Israeli medical cannabis facility announced a new strain of the plant which has only cannabidiol as an active ingredient, and virtually no THC, providing some of the medicinal benefits of cannabis without the euphoria. The researchers said the cannabis plant, enriched with CBD, “can be used for treating diseases like rheumatoid arthritis, colitis, liver inflammation, heart disease and diabetes”. Research on CBD enhanced cannabis began in 2009, resulting in Avidekel, a cannabis strain that contains 15.8% CBD and less than 1% THC. Raphael Mechoulam, a cannabinoid researcher, said “...Avidekel is thought to be the first CBD-enriched cannabis plant with no THC to have been developed in Israel”. In February 2014, a patent application was filed for a cannabis plant named ‘avidel’.
[Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannabidiol>]

Nobody can be certain when this genetically modified Marijuana will be available to the general public, or what the cost will be. Nobody knows if the US Drug Enforcement Agency will classify it as a scheduled drug and/or when the government will clear it for sale. The way that the government works, it could still take decades. The problem we are dealing with is now and needs to be addressed now, even if there is a promise of a Marijuana free of THC.

I
f
y
o
u
u
s
e
M
a
r
i
j
u
a
n
a

,
y
o
u
h
a
v
e
t
o
a
s
k
y
o
u
r
s
e
l
f
w
i
l
l
y
o
u
b
e
w
i
l
l
i
n

g
t
o
g
i
v
e
u
p
t
h
e
e
u
p
h
o
r
i
a
?
W
i
l
l
y
o
u
b
e
w
i
l
l
i
n

g
t
o
h
a
v
e
t
o
d
e
a
l
w
i
t
h
l
i
f
e
w
i
t
h
o
u
t
t
h
e
h
e
l
p
o

f
T
H
C
a
n
d
i
f
y
o
u
,
r
e
a
b
e
l
i
e
v
e
r
i
n
Y
e
s
h
u
a
,
a
r
e

y
o
u
w
i
l
l
i
n
g
t
o
t
r
u
s
t
Y
a
h
w
e
h
i
n
y
o
u
r
d
a
i
l
y
a
f

f
a
i
r
s
,
s
o
m
e
w
h
i
c
h
m
i
g
h
t
n
o
t
b
e
p
l
e
a
s
a
n
t
g
i
v

e
n
t
h
i
s
w
i
c
k
e
d
w
o
r
l
d
. I
f
y
o
u
,
v
e
b
e
e
n
t
a
k
i
n
g

i
n
T
H
C
i
n
a
n
y
f
o
r
m
,
a
r
e
y
o
u
w
i
l
l
i
n
g
t
o
s
t
o
p
e
i

t
h
e
r
c
o
l
d
t
u
r
k
e
y
o
r
b
y
r
e
d
u
c
i
n
g
i
t
g
r
a
d
u
a
l
l

y
w
h
i
l
e
y
o
u
i
n
c
r
e
a
s
e
y
o
u
r
i
n
t
a
k
e
o
f
C
B
D
?
A
n
d

h
e
r
e
,
s
t
h
e
h
a
r
d
p
a
r
t
;
a
r
e
y
o
u
w
i
l
l
i
n
g
t
o
g
i
v

e
u
p
y
o
u
r
p
r
i
d
e
a
n
d
a
d
m
i
t
t
h
a
t
y
o
u
,
v
e
b
e
n
b
r

e
a
k
i
n
g
m
a
n
,
s
l
a
w
b
y
d
o
i
n
g
s
o
m
e
t
h
i
n
g
u
n
l
a
w
f

u
l
a
n
d
b
r
e
a
k
i
n
g
Y
a
h
w
e
h
,
s
w
i
l
l
b
y
a
l
l
o
w
i
n
g
t

h
e
a
l
t
e
r
r
i
n
g
y
o
u
r
m
i
n
d
t
h
r
o
u
g
h
t
h
e
u
s
e
o
f
a
d
r

u
g
?
C
a
n
y
o
u
h
u
m
b
l
e
y
o
u
r
s
e
l
f
?
T
h
e
r
e
i
s
a
n
a
l
l
t

e
r
n
a
t
i
v
e
t
o
u
s
i
n
g
M
a
r
i
j
u
a
n
a
f
o
r
m
e
d
i
c
i
n
a
l

p
u
r
p
o
s
e
s
t
h
a
t
t
w
o
r
k
s
j
u
s
t
a
s
g
o
o
d
i
f
n
o
t
b
e
t
t

e
r
t
h
a
n
M
a
r
i
j
u
a
n
a
.
I
t
i
s
u
p
t
o
y
o
u
t
o
d
e
c
i
d
e
.