

Worldliness

Smoking and Tobacco Products

Introduction

1. I am concluding our series of lessons on Worldliness.
2. Smoking and the use of various tobacco products is a serious problem in society and the church today.
 - A. Hundreds of thousands of people use tobacco every day and most will die a cruel, painful death because of it.
3. We want to answer the question "Is it a sin to smoke or use tobacco products?"
 - A. Should a mature, faithful child of God be included among the number of those who smoke or use tobacco?
 - 1) Can we see the difference?
4. Some initial things that we should honestly consider as we begin our study.
 - A. Do not expect the Bible to mention directly the practice of smoking.
 - 1) That practice was unknown in Biblical times.
 - 2) Not introduced among Asian and European people until the 1500's.
 - 3) The Bible teaches many general principles which we can and must apply to determine whether or not certain practices are wrong – even if not specifically mentioned.
Hebrews 5:14; 2 Timothy 2:15

- B. Christians must be willing to deny self and seek to please God**
Matthew 16:24-27
Romans 12:1-2

- C. Christians must be seeking ways to accomplish as much as they can in God's service.**
Matthew 6:33

- D. Christians must desire to be like Jesus – living by the principles that Jesus taught and followed in His life.**
1 Peter 2:21
1 Corinthians 11:1

- E. We must ensure that our attitude is right before God. In order to do right, we must have an attitude that we want to do right no matter what.**

Trends and Statistics Concerning Smoking

- 1. 430,700 Americans die each year from diseases directly related to smoking.**
- 2. 27% of Americans smoke (44% in 1964)**
- 3. 80% start smoking before age 21**
- 4. One if five high school seniors smoke daily – 70% have tried cigarettes**
- 5. 3,000 teenagers start smoking each day**
- 6. 3.4% of Americans use snuff or chewing tobacco**
- 7. 100% of all humans start life as non-smokers**

Key Fact: Most people who smoke will admit that it is not good for them and that they would like to be able to quit. In order to not be faced with this problem – do NOT ever start smoking to begin with!

Smoking is Harmful to the Body

1. Notice what has been written and stated concerning smoking:

Charts 1-8

2. Nicotine Dependence

A. It is well established that nicotine meets the criteria of an addictive drug.

1) Nicotine withdrawal syndrome includes craving to use nicotine, irritability, anxiety, difficulty concentrating and increased appetite.

B. Dipping and Chewing tobacco leads to mouth and gum cancer.

3. It is a sin to deliberately harm the body and tobacco products do this.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

A. Our body is not ours – it is God's.

B. We have no right to abuse our body.

C. It is wrong to destroy the temple of God

1 Corinthians 3:17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

1) If this is not true, then it would not be wrong to use hard drugs, illegal drugs.

4. We are to present our bodies as a "living sacrifice."

Romans 12:1-2

Smoking is Addictive

1. It is very difficult to quit – many have tried and failed. Many can't go a day or even an hour without a cigarette.

2 Peter 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.

2. An addiction is a sin

A. We are not to be enslaved to anything.

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

3. It violates temperance or self-control.
2 Peter 1:5-10

4. An addiction is NOT a habit.

A. Habits can be good

B. Even bad habits are not necessarily sinful

C. Addiction = dependence

Smoking Affects Other People

- 1. Smoking affects others around the smoker – and in the smoker!**
 - A. The smoke off of the burning end is just as dangerous.**
 - B. It harms the family, children, mate, etc.**
 - C. It affects one's breathing, voice, etc.**
 - D. The smell gets into other people's hair, clothes, car, etc.**

- 2. We should have learned as Christians that we are to treat others respectfully.**

Matthew 7:12 Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Philippians 2:4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Smoking Ruins a Christian's Good Influence Upon Others

1. We are to set a good example before all.

1 Timothy 4:12 Take Heed to Your Ministry Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Philippians 2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

Matthew 5:13-16 You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

2 Remember what God tells us regard to "lusts of the flesh."

Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

A. Remember – 100% of people start life as a non-smoker.

Questions

- **Questions to Help Us Reach the Right Conclusion Regarding Smoking and Tobacco Products:**

1. **Would smoking help or hinder your service to God?**
 2. **Does smoking show proper appreciation for the blessing of life and good health?**
 3. **Does smoking harmonize or conflict with a Christian's worship and prayer?**
 - A. **Can you honestly pray for good health while continuing to smoke?**
 - B. **Can you thank God for the privilege of smoking?**
 4. **Would smoking show that you are being a faithful steward of your body?**
 5. **Would you be pleased to have other people, including your children, imitate your example of smoking?**
 - A. **Are you willing to recommend that other people begin the addiction of smoking in light of what the apostle Paul said?**
- 1 Corinthians 11:1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.
6. **Would smoking help or hinder your efforts to teach others about Christ?**

7. Would you be willing to accept elders or preachers who smoke?**A. Should they smoke or not?****Hebrews 13:7****Matthew 23:3-4****Romans 2:1-3, 21-24****8. Can you smoke in all good conscience, without any doubts?**

Romans 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.

9. Would Jesus smoke?**A. Would you smoke in Jesus' presence?****B. Would you offer Him a cigarette?****1) If so, would you expect Him to accept it?**

1 Peter 2:21-22 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: "WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH";

10. Would you say that the right thing for a Christian, or anyone to do is NOT SMOKE or partake in any tobacco products?

James 4:17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Conclusion

- 1. The Biblical principles of God's Word clearly shows that for one to be in the proper fellowship with God, then one can not smoke or use tobacco products.**
 - A. One can quit – if not, then one does not have self-control.**
 - B. Others have quit and have never regretted it.**
 - C. First, one must admit it is a sin, then quit the sin.**

- 2. It is really interesting that when one is young they are thought to be big if they smoke.**
 - A. But when one is older, they're big if they can quit!**

