

WHAT IS A DRUG?

Proverbs 16:25

There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

A. WHAT IS A DRUG?

A drug is a chemical substance introduced into the body that produces physical, emotional or mental changes. Some drugs are _____ and some are _____.

Three primary ways of using drugs are . . .

- _____ - swallowing pills, powders, liquids
- _____ - breathing in powders, smoke, fumes and other inhalants
- _____ - inserting a substance directly into the veins, which provides a more direct effect, or injecting the drug underneath the skin (called “skin popping”), which allows the drug to be absorbed more slowly into the blood stream

Three ways of obtaining drugs are . . .

- Over-the-counter (including alcohol)
- Prescription (only prescribed by a medical doctor)
- Illegally (The legal status of a drug varies from country to country.)

QUESTION: *“Is it possible to abuse drugs and alcohol and not become addicted?”*

ANSWER: _____.

Conscientious Christians need to know that our bodies are not our own to abuse in any way - they belong to God.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

B. WHAT IS SUBSTANCE ABUSE?

Substance abuse is the use of a chemical, legal or illegal, to the point of causing a person physical, mental or emotional harm.

There are _____ types of substance abusers.

- An _____ user is a person who uses a drug out of curiosity.
- A _____ user is a person who “gets high” on drugs on special occasions (parties, celebrations, Etc. . .)
- A _____ user is a person in a constant pattern of drug abuse who also attempts to live a normal lifestyle.
- A _____ user is a person who uses drugs uncontrollably for a brief period of time and then abstains until the next binge.
- A _____ user is a person who is emotionally and physically hooked on drugs and whose life centers around obtaining those drugs. This person has a chemical dependency.

Deuteronomy 29:19

QUESTION: “I have friends who drink heavily - sometimes to excess - and they want me to party with them. Is it okay for me to go with them, even if I am not drinking?”

ANSWER: There's an old saying, “You become like what you hang around with” (1 Corinthians 15:33). Going with those friends is not wise. Scripture clearly states,

Proverbs 23:20

C. WHAT ARE THE _____ MAJOR DRUG CLASSIFICATIONS?

Drugs are generally classified into four major groups depending on their effect on the body.

1. _____ are drugs that produce a calming effect and slow down the central nervous system.
 - **Prevalent types are . . .** alcohol, sedatives (sleeping pills), tranquilizers (valium), barbiturates (“downers”) and organic solvents (model airplane glue, gasoline and aerosols).
 - **Psychological symptoms are . . .** poor concentration, distorted thinking, lack of judgment and aggressiveness.
 - **Physical effects are . . .** drowsiness, slurred speech, lack of coordination, tremors, decreased energy, coma, impaired vision, decreased pulse rate and blood pressure, respiratory depression and death.

The Bible refers to those who . . .

Isaiah 28:7

2. _____ are drugs that excite bodily functions and speed up the central nervous system.
- **Prevalent types are . . .** cocaine, crack, meth, and amphetamines (“speed” or “uppers”).
 - **Psychological symptoms are . . .** excitability, increased energy, exaggerated self-confidence, heightened sexual drives, temporary exhilaration, irritability, apprehension and intensification of all emotions.
 - **Physical effects are . . .** hyperactivity, restlessness, insomnia, loss of appetite, dry mouth, bad breath, itchy nose, dilated pupils, rapid and unclear speech, perspiration, headaches, dizziness, elevated blood pressure and heart rate, psychosis and death.

The Book of Proverbs describes those who walk without wisdom, those who are victims of their own folly. Like the one who takes stimulants . . .

Proverbs 6:15

3. _____ are drugs that alter and distort reality.
- **Prevalent types are . . .** LSD, marijuana, PCP (“angel dust”) and mescaline.
 - **Psychological symptoms are . . .** hallucinations, heightened sensitivities, anxiety attacks, lowered inhibitions and out-of-body experiences.
 - **Physical effects vary with the drug . . .** LSD acts as a stimulant; marijuana acts as a depressant (reactions differ with each individual): sleeplessness, loss of appetite, increased energy, increased pulse rate and blood pressure, eyes fixed in a blank stare or rapid involuntary eye movements, slurred or blocked speech, higher rate of accidents and violence, disorientations and death.

Although the Bible does not directly mention hallucinogens, it does address the hallucinogenic effect of alcohol, which is frightening and disturbing.

Proverbs 23:33-35

4. _____ are drugs that reduce pain and elevate a person's mood.
- **Prevalent types are . . .** opium, morphine, codeine, heroin, methadone and meperidine.
 - **Psychological symptoms are . . .** temporary euphoria, dulled senses, lethargy and confusion.
 - **Physical effects are . . .** relief of pain, droopy eyelids, constricted pupils, slowed reaction and motor skills, drowsiness, lack of coordination, depressed reflexes, dry mouth, constipation, scars or abscesses at injection sites and death.

When you are in pain, rather than turning only to drugs, turn to the Lord, be dependent on Him, and seek His direction for pain relief.

Psalms 69:29

NEXT WEEK: The Downward Spiral of Dependency