STUDY GUIDE: "Garbage In Garbage Out"

Discussion Starters

1.   True or False: Christians should not drink alcohol.

2.   True or False: Christians should not use recreational marijuana.

Study

This study guide is designed to follow up the sermon "Garbage In Garbage Out" at NOCC on 8/12/18. If you weren't in worship at NOCC that Sunday, listen to the sermon on nocc.org or the NOCC app.

3.   OPINION: Is the Biblical teaching about alcohol applicable to other substances as well? Please explain.

4.   Read the following passages and note what they say about consumption of psychoactive substances.

Proverbs 20:1

Proverbs 21:17

Proverbs 23:20-21a

Proverbs 23:29-30

Proverbs 31:4-5

John 1:3

1 Corinthians 6:12

Ephesians 5:15-18

1 Timothy 4:4

1 Timothy 5:23

To complete the next section of the study guide, you will need to use a Bible Dictionary. Remember, the words listed below are from the NASU, but the word you are trying to define is the Greek or Hebrew word translated by the NASU—NOT the English word. If you have any questions about how to use these tools, contact your group leader or one of the pastoral staff.

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5.   Define the following words or terms. Note for each of them how understanding the meaning and background of that word better helped you understand this passage, and why you think this word was chosen.

--"intoxicated" (Proverbs 20:1)

--"heavy drinkers" (Proverbs 23:20)

--"strong drink (Proverbs 31:4)

--"foolish" (Ephesians 5:18)

--"dissipation" (Ephesians 5:18)

6.   Summarize what a Christian's use of alcohol or other psycho-active substances should be and explain why from the scripture passages.

Taking It Home

7.   Do you believe Christians in the US are faithful in their use of alcohol overall? Please explain.

8.   What is the difference between drinking and drinking to excess? How can Christians best avoid the latter?

9.   Does your answer to the question above apply to marijuana use? Explain.

10.   How would you approach a Christian who is abusing alcohol or another substance?