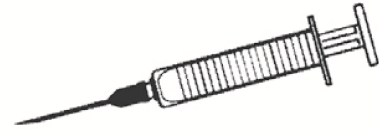


# Drugs



## But what if I don't want to say no?

### Why do people still take drugs when they know how bad they are?

One teenager put it this way, *“telling us to say no is meaningless, we use drugs because we are unhappy. Just saying no won't help that. You can shut off the supply of drugs, we will find something else, even make them ourselves.”*

**The search for happiness, that is what so much of the drug problem is about.**

A reporter in a television documentary approached an individual in an area where drugs are regularly bought and sold.

The person looked defiantly into the T.V. camera and asked, *“what can you give me for £3 that will make me happy for a while like crack does?”*

The good feelings a person has when he or she is happy are generated by the actions or reactions in the brain and nervous system.

One of the effects certain drugs have is to stimulate those actions or reactions so a person temporarily feels happy, even when depressed.

**In other words, controlled substances produce artificial happiness.**

The effect, however, is not long lasting; that's why another dose or fix has to be taken, and then another, and another.

Each experience of being *“high”* makes the state more desirable and the *“down”* state less tolerable.

Notice how this is reflected in a note composed by an 18 year old. *“I have used all types of drugs, from hash, pot and acid to hard stuff. It's all a bad scene. If someone offers you drugs, be more of a man than I was, say no. Learn from my mistakes. Drugs have their small moments of happiness, but for each moment lies a century of sadness never to be removed.”*

**That was his own way of expressing a tragic truth just before he pulled the trigger and ended his tortured existence.**

Still, for those *“small moments of happiness”* drug users are willing to spend large sums of money to sacrifice health, job, family, and even to commit crime.

**Drugs become the all-consuming purpose of living.**

The drug problem is **not** caused by countries that grow and produce narcotics; it is **not** caused by smugglers or gaps in border controls, **not** even by the pushers on the streets. The drug problem **cannot** be attributed principally to ineffective drug education programmes.

**The drug problem lies in the heart and mind of the drug user!** A void exists there that needs to be filled for the person to be happy.

**A person may be expected to say no to controlled substances only when he or she no longer feels a need to rely on them for happiness.**

This is what would put growers, producers, smugglers and pushers out of business. This is where much of the emphasis on ending the drug plague needs to be placed. Yet this is the area that gets the least publicity! Why?

Because so few understand what true, lasting happiness is and how we can attain it. **Human beings were created with a gnawing void that cries out to be filled.**

We all seek to fill it with something; unfortunately, most people try to fill their inner emptiness with things that are **not** lasting: work, sports, sex, possessions, recognition, status and some drugs, all of which do seem to partially fill the void, but only temporarily.

When you want to understand how a machine or appliance works, where do you look to find out? The manufacturer's handbook that was supplied with the product.

We know that any manufactured product, from cars to computers, was designed, the parts manufactured, then it was assembled and tested.

**We as human beings are the end product of wondrous design and manufacture, far beyond any other product or living thing.**

Human beings could not *“just have happened”* no more than a computer could *“just happen.”*

The *“theory”* of evolution is just an attempt of men to try to explain how humans originated without design or manufacture. Why?

Because we don't like to accept what we are told in the Christian Bible, that explains how humans function.

We cannot understand the purpose and working of a machine or appliance without being instructed by the manual that comes with it.

How much more, with a very complex product like a human being, we need to study the Christian Bible, that comes with us from our manufacturer, the Creator God, [John 1:1-4, 14].

If you want to understand why you exist and how to function efficiently, then study and follow exactly what is stated in the Christian Bible.

When you pause to consider what I have just written, if you are honest you have to admit it is logical, wise and prudent.

I would **not** have done so 50 years ago, because I also had some strong prejudices and preconceptions about the Christian Bible, even when I didn't really understand what it said.

Then I was challenged to study the Christian Bible, with an **open mind**, and I was amazed at what happiness it promised could be mine if I only accepted a few very simple conditions.

**It showed me** why I existed and what a wonderful, happy and fulfilled future I could have.

**It showed me** how I could have peace of mind in spite of the trials and problems I might face. For there is One who can guide us safely and triumphantly through any trial or problem.

I now have an exciting vision of what my future life will be and challenging goals for me to strive for and attain as I travel towards that glorious future.

Can you say that much about your life and your future? **If not, then why not join me in the exciting journey I'm on!**

Listen to these promises I have personally claimed.

**John 10:10** *"I have come in order that you might have life, life in all its fullness."*

To me that sounds like a very good idea, we all desire to live a life that is really fulfilling and happy, don't we?

**Matthew 11:28** *"Come to me, all of you who are weary and over-burdened, and I will give you rest."*

Does that describe your life at times, *"weary and over-burdened,"* or maybe most of the time?

**John 14:27** *"Peace is what I leave with you, it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset, do not be afraid."*

This world's leaders and politicians say that if we vote for them they will offer us peace, prosperity and freedom from fear of the future, but it never seems to turn out that way, does it?

The above promises come from One who does have the authority and power to make things happen in individual lives and eventually worldwide.

**Matthew 28:18** *"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth."*

This was said by One who for three and a half years had demonstrated this power and authority by healing the sick, casting out evil spirits that had possessed people and tormented them for years. He even brought back to life people who had died.

Then when He allowed people, out of envy and hatred, to murder Him, He came back to life to prove this power and authority.

This person then said, **Matthew 28:20** *"I will be with you always, to the end of the age."*

Millions of people have proved these promises to be true in their own lives over many hundreds of years since they were first made.

Notice what one person said as a result of accepting these promises to be true. This person's name was Paul.

Paul had **not** always believed these promises, in fact at one time he used his own personal authority to put in prison and even kill those who lived by these promises.

But after a dramatic personal encounter with the One who made these promises, he really changed his mind and began to powerfully persuade others to change their opinion about the promise maker.

Paul summed up his new life in this way:

**Romans 8:38-39** *"For I am certain that nothing can separate us from His [this Promise Maker] Love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers [remember "all power in heaven and in earth"] or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below, there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the Love of God which is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

Yes, that promise maker, Jesus Christ, who has all power in heaven and earth, is our Creator and He has provided us with the Christian Bible, that will show us how to run this life we have, that He created, smoothly for ever.

I've presented you with the challenge that I accepted many years ago and have never regretted for one moment.

There are many people like me who live near you.

They are called Christians, and they all want to help you accept this challenge and claim the promise that Jesus Christ has made.

If you don't feel ready yet to join with other Christians, log on to our website **[www.handbook-for-life.org.uk](http://www.handbook-for-life.org.uk)** and read some of the articles there which will help you.