



Drug Abuse

By

Robert C. Archer



What is a 'drug'?

- A drug is any chemical that produces a therapeutic or non-therapeutic effect in the body.

Drugs abused

- **Alcohol**
- **Prescribed medications** (such as Ritalin, and OxyContin)
- **Inhalants:** Known by such street names as huffing, sniffing and wanging



Drugs abused

- **Over-the-counter cough, cold, sleep, and diet medications** (such as Coricidin)
- **Marijuana**
- **Stimulants** (Crack, a powerfully addictive stimulant, is the term used for a smokeable form of cocaine)



Drugs abused

- **Club drugs** (drugs being used by teens and young adults at all-night dance parties such as "raves" or "trances," dance clubs, and bars. (Ecstasy), GHB, Rohypnol (Rophies), ketamine, methamphetamine, and LSD)



Drugs abused

- **Depressants**
- **Heroin**
- **Steroids**



Teenagers at risk

- Those with a family history of substance abuse
- Those who are depressed
- Those who have low self-esteem
- Those who feel like they don't fit in or are out of the mainstream



Warning Signs

- **Physical**

- fatigue
- repeated health complaints
- red and glazed eyes
- lasting cough



Warning Signs

- **Emotional**
 - personality change
 - sudden mood changes
 - irritability
 - irresponsible behavior
 - low self-esteem
 - poor judgment
 - depression
 - general lack of interest



Warning Signs

- **Family**
 - starting arguments
 - negative attitude
 - breaking rules
 - withdrawing from family
 - secretiveness



Warning Signs

- **School**
 - decreased interest
 - negative attitude
 - drop in grades
 - many absences
 - truancy
 - discipline problems



Warning Signs

- **Social problems**

- new friends who make poor decisions and are not interested in school or family activities
- problems with the law
- changes to less conventional styles in dress and music





BIBLE ON DRUG ABUSE

- Don't be under the control (1 Cor. 6:12)
- Work of flesh (Gal. 5:19-21)
- Illegal (Rom. 13:1-4)
- Corrupts good morals (1 Cor. 15:33)

WHY PEOPLE START

- Peer pressure
- Rejected by society
- Thrill
- Rebellion
- Music, movies and TV



HOW CAN WE AVOID?

- Good families (2 Tim. 3:14-15; 1:5)
- Communication (Deut. 6:7-9)
- Show them the consequences of sin (Prov. 23:29-35)
- Good friends (Prov. 27:17)
- A right relationship with God (2 Tim. 1:6-12)

