

Q&A SUNDAY - JUNE 3, 2018 - GARY STEBBINS

Question: Is smoking a sin?

To understand if smoking is sin- larger context.

Examine from three perspectives:

1. Control versus Liberty

Smoking is more than just picking up a cigarette.

It is about a habit that has taken some degree of control in our lives- we have to smoke.

Broaden to include- alcohol, misuse of opioids, computer gaming- anything- controls- behavior.

To occasionally ...

>smoke a cigarette/cigar/pipe

>have a glass of wine at dinner

>play a computer game

>to use opioids as prescribed by a doctor

... is not in and of it self sin.

I know- young men- get together 2/3 times a year- sit on-back porch-smoke pipes/cigars-

that is not in and of itself sin

However, if you have to have- smoke/drink, that substance is exhibiting control over your life.

Rom 6:16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

When- cigarette/beer demands you smoke/drink it- you have become slaves to that substance.

When- come home- work- spend hours playing- computer game- you have become its slave.

Opioids can help in- short term but to take them when you do not have pain- you are its slave.

When we constantly yield ourselves to something that thing has become an idol in our lives.

We are allowing something other than God to exhibit control over our behavior/lives.

1 Cor 6:12 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

Do not allow cigarettes/alcohol/opioids or anything to master and control your behavior

Do not submit yourselves as slaves to anything other than God.

2. Taking Care of our Physical Temple

Our bodies are the temple of the HS and we are charged w/being good stewards of our temple.

If we want to live long healthy lives/maximize our ability to serve God- take care of our bodies.

1 Cor 6:19-20

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

We are not our own- we have exchanged our right- do what we want w/ bodies for eternal life

If smoking/drinking has become a habit- you are doing it enough to be harmful to your health.

At that point- need to consider whether you are glorifying God in our body- is this profitable?

3. Our Testimony

It is important to consider how smoking or drinking appears to others.

Does it further our testimony or hinder it?

Does it cause another brother/sister to stumble?

Rom 14:13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

There are some things I might have liberty to do at home but not in public because it

might cause another believer to stumble.

I might have- liberty to smoke a pipe/cigar once in a while, or have a glass of wine at dinner.

But I will not do it in public if there is a chance it will cause another brother/sister to stumble.

To answer the question: Is smoking sin?

If you have to have a cigarette, you are allowing something other than God to control your

behavior- at that point it becomes sin.

You have submitted yourself to something other than God/allow that thing to control your life.

If you smoke habitually it has been proven be harmful to your health.
You need to ask yourself- am I glorifying God in my body?

Will smoking send you to hell- not necessarily but it might get you to heaven faster.