



"The Bible doesn't forbid wine

—it says we should be moderate. It doesn't say word one about marijuana, and I believe marijuana is less harmful than wine. So I believe as long as you smoke it in moderation where it is legal to do so, no problem."

Larry, high school valedictorian

The Stats

About 42% of 17-year-olds know a drug dealer and could purchase marijuana. What percentage of kids have been encouraged to buy or share pot?

- ☐ 9% of all 12-year-olds.
- ☐ 16% of all 13-year-olds.
- ☐ 33% of all 14-year-olds.
- ☐ 49% of all 15-year-olds.
- ☐ 53% of all 16-year-olds.
- ☐ 58% of all 17-year-olds.

USA Today
November 5, 1996

By the Book...

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord.

2 Corinthians 6:14, 17

Everything is permissible for me—but not everything is beneficial.

1 Corinthians 6:12

MIDDLE-CLASS DRUG DEALERS

Both Tim and Darlene are Christians, both are active members of Young Life, both come from good homes—and both are drug dealers. And they don't believe they are doing anything wrong. They sell only marijuana, which they believe is about the same as alcohol—and besides, pot is now legal in some states for medicinal purposes. Kids at their school will buy marijuana anyway, Tim and Darlene figure, so it's not as if they're creating new drug addicts. Neither do the pair waste their profits on cars and clothes: they're saving for a college education.

But Tim and Darlene have a problem. Keith, their Young Life director, has asked them if the rumors he's heard are true—because if they are, he's going to the police. And he doesn't want them coming to Young Life anymore.

Tim and Darlene are nervous about the situation, mostly because it could cut into their college money. They've got blackmail material, though—some of the Young Life kids are their best customers. Not to mention the daughter of a prominent pastor in town.

So Tim and Darlene admit to Keith that, yes, they deal marijuana. But they also explain why they don't think it's wrong. And finally, they tell Keith, if he says anything to the police, they'll reveal not only where they sell (before and after Young Life meetings), but also some interesting names from their customer list.

1. What are Keith's options? What would you do if you were Keith?

2. Based on this story, what are your impressions of Tim and Darlene?

3. What do you think of Tim and Darlene's arguments in defense of dealing pot?

- "Kids are going to buy it anyway"
- "It is already legal in some states, under certain conditions"
- "They need the money for college"

4. Can you be a Christian and smoke marijuana? Can you be a Christian and sell marijuana?

