

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."



A Controversial Newsletter "The Printed Voice of Summit Theological Seminary"

~ All articles are written by George L. Faull, Rel. D. unless otherwise stated ~

Vol. 27 No. 3

July 2014

George L. Faull, Editor

Snuff Said.....

Dear Brother Faull,

I sometimes chew and snort snuff. I do not see anything wrong with it.



- * First, the Bible does not mention it as a sin.
- * Second, it is not the same as smoking.
- * Third, It can be hid easier than smoking and no one need know you even do it.
- * Fourth, it does not give the second hand smoke problem to other people.
- * Fifth, It is my business, my money, and no one should judge me.

I have always found you fair and honest on a sincere question and brutally honest and truthful. What do you say? Do I have stinking thinking?

ANSWER:

Well, on the first point you're right. The Bible does not mention it. But I could say it does not mention snorting heroin, or crack either. What does that prove?

Do you honestly think the devil did not invent new vices in the last 2000 years? Tobacco was not known until 1492 when they found those in Cuba using it and then Spanish people brought it to Spain and finally it spread to other countries. They never used it in Bible lands.

What did you expect, a prophecy in the Bible that in years to come men will chew, snort, and smoke a foul plant that will be very hard on men and women's health that it will be sinful?

Your argument that nothing is sin unless specifically mentioned as sin in the Bible is obviously ludicrous. The Christian learns by Bible principles and then applies them to current practices that Satan uses to ensnare people into habits that are contrary to man's good.

Your second point is obviously true. Snorting tobacco or chewing tobacco is different than smoking it. However, smokeless tobacco, like a can of snuff or dip, contains

approximately 144 milligrams of nicotine. That is equal to 80 cigarettes!!!

A can of Skoal is equal to four packs of cigarettes. So if you take it daily you are exposed to a lot of nicotine. In addition, you will be taking into your system hundreds of chemicals that puts your health at risk. It takes days for it to leave the body.

Your third point is possibly true. You may be able to hide it, but why should a Christian have to hide anything? That sounds like hypocrisy to me. It will show up in a urine test and keep you from getting a non-tobacco rate on health and life insurance or even a job! It seems to me that anything you have to hide ought to be suspect to a Christian who is trying to perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord.

I would think any habit a Christian has should be able to be recommended to others. If you cannot recommend it to the brethren, and have to sneak around to do it, as far as my thinking is concerned, is sufficient reason to avoid it. Besides, you can be sure your sin can find you out. There will be payday some day.

The smokeless tobacco causes white spots (leukoplakia) on your lips and the oral cancer you may get may reveal your little secret.

Oral cancer is 80% higher and 60% higher for pancreatic and esophageal cancer than in non-users). Incidentally, do you recommend it to your sons and daughters; why not? Are you afraid they will get gum disease (periodontal) and lose teeth that are common from this vice? The label on the can warns about that.

I am told it is a very hard habit to break and read on the internet that users say they had a hard time of going two or three hours without a snort. I may add that there are literally hundreds of additional chemicals besides the nicotine in the product.

Your fourth point is true. There is no secondhand smoke, but I think maybe I prefer that than stepping in spittle or watching someone clean out a spittoon. Do you make your wife do that or do you just swallow it and endanger your health even more? (Ulcers, etc.)

Your fifth argument is one I hear a lot of people use. I have heard many use that excuse for chewing and smoking, snorting, drinking, piercing, tattooing, abortion, and gambling.

Now since God has spoken about that, I think you should not use that argument. If you're a Christian, you are not your own, you have been bought with a price and you are to glorify God in your body and spirit, which are His. Your body is His temple. **I Corinthians 6:19-20**

If this vice had existed in the days of Solomon's temple, would you have had a snort while there? So why snort in his temple today?

You are specifically told as a Christian, "Whether therefore ye eat or drink or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God and do not give offence, neither to the Jew, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God." **1 Corinthians 10:31-32**

Romans 14:21, "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby your brother stumble, or is offended, or is made weak."

You also are told it would be better not to be born or drown than to cause a child to stumble, and that we must take heed that we do not despise children. **Luke 12:1-2**
The Indiana Quitline (from where I got some of the above stats) gives links to prove that snorters are much more likely to go to other tobacco and stronger drugs.

So I would say that since it is a vice that enslaves men to a drug and it is a very questionable hygiene proven to be unhealthy and a waste of your finances (which means poor stewardship) and causes a loss of influence for Christ, it should be avoided by those who wish to please the Lord. You do not have the right to throw away the influence you could have for Him for a gross habit.

You might also want to read **Psalms 103:2-5**, which shows that God heals us from our disease, and fills our mouth with good things that causes us to have **renewed strength like an eagle**.

Sure seems to me that you are acting contrary to that prayer and therefore are not pursuing the Will of God as a saint. Sorry to be so hard on you but I know you would want me to tell you what I honestly think. I trust you will not be angry and offended but just use these thoughts for an examination of your thinking.

Remember, we write only from concern for your usefulness in the Kingdom.