

OKLAHOMA STATE QUESTION 820

Marijuana Legalization Initiative, March 2023

On March 7, 2023, Oklahomans will vote on State Question 820, which was designed to legalize the possession, transportation, and distribution of recreational marijuana for adults (age 21) and to raise additional tax revenue for the state. As Elders, we wish to express our concern about this possibility, as recreational marijuana has proven to do more harm than good.

First, “passing this initiative is unwise and unnecessary, as Oklahoma already has more marijuana dispensaries than any other state in the country. Second, recreational marijuana creates easier access to a mind-altering, addictive substance that has proven adverse physical, mental, and emotional effects on the users (especially adolescents), their families, and entire communities. Third, recreational marijuana is an established gateway to other risky behaviors.”¹

While we know that “all things are lawful for us,” as Christians, we also know that “not all things are beneficial” (*1 Corinthians 6:12*). Though we recognize the importance of individual freedom and self-regulation, we believe that making marijuana and its related products more readily available, accessible, and acceptable is not beneficial to the families of our church, our community, or our state.

Elder Council

Henderson Hills Baptist Church

¹ For more information, go to www.oklahomabaptists.org/sq820.