

height of arrogance and stupidity. I know I'm puking fun at this thing, but it's serious. God doesn't want you addicted to something that's trying to kill you - God wants to set you free. Cigarettes are not cool, they're **deadly!**

And how about swearing and filthy language? In spite of Hollywood and all the MTV potty mouths, there is no intelligence whatsoever in the use of four letter, one syllable words. You might think it's cool or manly but the fact is, the smaller the mind, the filthier the mouth. It demonstrates only a limited vocabulary and a severely handicapped imagination. Think about it, your grandfather heard all those same "cuss" words in his day. What an old-fashioned sin! There's nothing new about it. It's just adolescent bravura in the bewildering labyrinth of puberty. Give it a rest! What? You're an adult with a foul mouth? Take control of yourself and grow up! The Word says straight out "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth... (Eph. 4:29.)"

Drinking and Drugs? - I put them together because they do the same things. They destroy men's lives. More damage has been done to families by alcohol alone than any one thing. More murders are committed, more fights are fought, and more wives are battered

because of alcohol than anything else. Oh yeah, satan makes it pretty on TV but in real life, where homes are broken, children abused, and lives shattered there's no beauty in it. Nobody thinks they'll be a drunkard when they start. They want to be "cool". They want to have friends. You should see some of the friends you get using drugs. I was looking out my window in Frankfurt Germany and there stood a young man in a crouched position going up and down, back and forth, up and down for hours! His "friends" were going through his back-pack stealing anything they could find of value. It wasn't "cool"— it was pathetic. Jesus died to set men free and here was a man taken captive by satan in his own lusts. It's enough to make the angels weep!

Nothing pleases satan more than defiling the image of God—man. And if he can cause men to worship the creature instead of the Creator then he has accomplished his purpose. satan uses this same strategy in many different areas always to the destruction of humanity.

Take sex for example. God's idea was that sex be more than sex. God's idea was of a holy union between a man and a woman that was grounded in commitment and love for a lifetime. God's plan was for

one man and one woman to become one flesh, to love and nurture one another in the fear of the Lord. These days if a man subscribes to God's plan he is called a fool. satan and his crowd mock virginity and commitment and anything that resembles purity or holiness in this arena of life. No, satan says, "any sex is cool as long as it's safe. Condoms are the key." There is no humor at all in this deceit. The sad truth is, young people are being turned into whores and whoremongers chasing the next thrill in this flesh-fest. The human highway is littered with the broken lives of those deceived by this licentiousness. People are trapped in pornography and perversion seeking some new thrill to stimulate their callous senses. I won't say more of their wicked behaviors but I will say that **God is angry with the wicked everyday (Ps 7:11) and He will judge this!** In the world-wide epidemic of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) satan says, "Play on, play on, play on, and on," but what will you do in the end thereof? When it comes time to pay the price for your lustful dance—when sin shows its true color and stings like a serpent, what will you give in exchange for your soul? God never intended for you to be driven by your passions—a slave to your lusts. He never intended for you to have to concern yourself with STDs or

Drawing by Christopher Nelson

Romans 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.

these wicked imaginations.

No, God wants you to be special and free and clean and pure and holy! It's satan who would debase you and turn you into some kind of animal. It's satan who wants to make you dirty and ashamed. satan wants you chained to your sin but Jesus wants to set you free!

So when satan says you're a fool if you follow Jesus—I say you're a fool if you don't! Let the world mock if it will but know this, I'd rather be a fool for Christ than a slave to the devil any day. And I just want to thank God for the freedom—the real freedom in Christ that I enjoy. The simple truth is, there is coming a day when each one of us will stand before God and give account of what we've done with our lives. It won't matter what men thought about me. It won't matter how they mocked or scoffed or ridiculed then; all that will matter is what God thinks. So I've dedicated myself to acting like what he said is true. I've dedicated myself to His will and His desires. I've dedicated myself to Him.

I hope and pray you'll find the courage and conviction to do the same. I'm not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ and nothing the world says moves me at all! So mock on world!

Mock on!