

Sex, Drugs, and Consenting Adults
Serendipity Class — May 23 & 30, 1999

The messages you're about to hear on this video are messages that come from the "world" — in other words, from Satan himself. Take notice how many of the opinions sound plausible — for example, the defense of individual liberties. However, these messages deny the existence of a foundation of TRUTH by stating that whatever an individual wants to do to himself or herself is nobody else's business — a viewpoint which is nothing more than moral relativism.

Take a look at some of the key messages in this video and think about how you would respond. Next week we will discuss how these messages stand up to the truth claims of the Bible.

1. What I choose to do to myself doesn't hurt anyone else.
2. My body belongs to me, and I should be able to do anything I want with it.
3. I have the right to choose the time and place of my own death, and the right to die with dignity.
4. The government should not attempt to legislate morality. Each person should have the freedom to choose what is right and wrong. If an individual believes that certain behaviors are okay, the government should not presume to say otherwise. Morality is based on an individual's right to choose what is best.
5. Adultery is no one else's business, even if it's against the law.
6. Prostitution should not be illegal. A woman has the right to sell herself in order to make a living, and a man has the right to spend his money for pleasure. Since it's legal to get sex for free, it should also be legal to pay for it. We don't need to be "protected" from prostitution.
7. Homosexuality is okay, because you don't have control over who you fall in love with.
8. Consenting adults must always have the freedom to do whatever they want to do.
9. Legalizing drugs will reduce violent crime. Drugs are in

- demand because they're illegal, and people are always attracted to something that is forbidden. Besides, you have the right to kill yourself with tobacco and alcohol, so why not drugs?
10. Every type of indulgence can be abused, so it is unreasonable to think that some or all behaviors should be illegal.
11. In order for there to be a crime, there has to be a victim. And selling drugs is an example of a victimless crime. Police should be trying to catch the *real* criminals.
12. Drug dealers don't *create* demand, they only sell products which are already *in* demand. Enforcing the laws against drug dealers doesn't change people's behavior.
13. Unfair laws sometimes force people to be dishonest in order to maintain their freedom of choice.
14. Selective enforcement of laws is tyranny. The government should not pass laws that it can't enforce consistently and completely.
15. It's okay to make people feel ashamed for their behavior, but not to enforce their behavior by law.
16. Without tolerance of contrasting lifestyles, freedom is lost.

Isn't it interesting to see how people will adamantly defend their right to individual liberty, but still insist on protection from others? No one wants to fly with a drug-addicted airline pilot. But what about the pilot's liberties? How is this difference reconciled? The not-so-subtle message in this tape is that rebellion against the law — even to the point of anarchy — is justifiable in order to protect individual liberties. What does the Bible have to say about this?

Also think about how the cries for freedom you hear in this video contrast to what we see around us — lawsuits for spilled coffee, warning labels against folding baby strollers with the infant still in it. How can we reconcile our militaristic defense of individual rights with the screams for protection from all forms of external harm? Which is more important, ultimately — preserving individual rights, or protecting society as a whole?