



Dave Morlan: [\(00:03\)](#)

We hold that intention with another thing we have to do, we're committed to, which is to be friends with sinners and tax collectors, but the call of the gospel extends to all people.

Announcer: [\(00:20\)](#)

You're listening to The Faith and Work Podcast, where we explore what it means to serve God, neighbor, and society through our daily work.

Joanna Meyer: [\(00:28\)](#)

Hi and welcome to The Faith and Work Podcast. I'm Joanna Meyer, Denver Institute's director of public engagement, and I'm joined today by our VP of formation, Brian Gray. Hi, Brian, how is your summer going?

Brian Gray: [\(00:39\)](#)

Not too bad. We have a little reprieve from some of the heat in our Colorado weather and a little slowness in our work to do some meaningful thought planning and reflection before the fall and the spring programming push. It's been good.

Joanna Meyer: [\(00:54\)](#)

Yeah, it makes such a difference to have a little bit of mental space to evaluate what we're doing for the year. Today, we're exploring a very complex and thought-provoking topic related to marijuana. Colorado legalized recreational marijuana in 2012. And since that time, it has become a ubiquitous part of life in Metro Denver. It's common to see dispensaries as you drive around town or to smell marijuana smoke when you're out in public. We also see a wide range of products using marijuana derivatives from edibles to CBD-infused lotion and sparkling water.

Joanna Meyer: [\(01:28\)](#)

The proliferation of marijuana use raises questions for anyone who follows Christ. It may be legal, but is it acceptable to use pot recreationally? What about marijuana for medical use or products that contain marijuana derivatives? What about work in the marijuana industry? So many questions. Brian, how have you seen marijuana legalization affect life and work in Colorado?

Brian Gray: [\(01:53\)](#)

Well, interestingly, I'll focus that just upon life in the church or faith experience. I've seen a lot of believers who find themselves either creating a very staunch us-them relationship with those people outside the church who use and those of us inside the church who don't. I've also seen people who just unthinkingly, unreflectively kind of go with whatever they want to do in their own choices recreationally around marijuana. For what it's worth, I've seen the same thing in the way people approach alcohol



immaturely, the way they approach the number of hours that they work, the presence or absence of Sabbath in their life, use of a cell phone.

Brian Gray: ([02:42](#))

While we're going to talk about pot today, because it's such a hot button issue, it also is a larger question about how do we think about the impact of a lot of things, which may not be helpful for the believer.

Joanna Meyer: ([02:57](#))

I appreciate you saying that, Brian, because of our guests are outside of Colorado or even outside the US. You may be in cultures in which marijuana has not become a ubiquitous part of life. What we're talking about today can serve as a valuable framework for thinking about any range of complex issues as Christians and what it looks like to have a winsome presence in our public life. I can't wait to dig into it a little bit more with our guest, Dave Morlan. We'll frame the conversation in three ways. We'll start with a look at biblically and personally what does it mean to consider marijuana. We'll think about the next concentric ring out and think about what are the implications for discipleship at a church level and also for Christians in public life.

Joanna Meyer: ([03:40](#))

What is it like to be friends with neighbors for whom this is a normal and acceptable part of life? And then finally, we will take that final step out and just think about work in general. Marijuana is only one of a wide range of gray areas. We'll think about what are some principles to help us think about what type of work is acceptable and how to navigate those things that aren't biblically clear related to our work. I want to offer one disclaimer before we start, is that neither Brian or I, nor our guest Dave Morlan, use pot now or intend to use it in the future. Our conversation today is not about endorsing that behavior. It's merely an attempt to provide some insight and more nuanced conversation about a very complex issue. Brian, would you introduce us to Dave Morlan, today's guest?

Brian Gray: ([04:26](#))

Yeah, for sure. First and foremost, Dave is a friend of ours and someone we really respect. He's the co-founder and teaching pastor at Fellowship Denver Church. In addition to his pastoral work, Dave is associate faculty at Denver Seminary and is a member of the Center for Pastor Theologians. That's shorthand for really, really smart people who are also practitioners in the local church. Dave earned a doctorate of foster religion and theology from Durham University in the UK and has written a number of books, including Conversion in Luke and Paul and Luke, The Gospel from the Inside Out. Dave, we're really just thankful for the time to spend a conversation with you and appreciate your reflective capacities.

Dave Morlan: ([05:12](#))

Hey, excited to be with you guys today and thanks so much for the invite.



Brian Gray: ([05:17](#))

We've just introduced you as the smart practitioner, and yet of all the things you're known for when you graduated from seminary, don't think you would be tagged as weed pastor, or at least I'm trying to stir some controversy and click bait by calling you right now the weed pastor.

Joanna Meyer: ([05:35](#))

The weed pastor.

Brian Gray: ([05:37](#))

You've got a lot of thoughtful reflection on this, but probably a surprise, right?

Dave Morlan: ([05:42](#))

Yeah, totally. I wasn't a pothead kind of growing up. I didn't grow up in weed culture at all. But as God's sovereign and plan unfolded, he kind of put me in a place where I had to sort of engage with pot culture.

Brian Gray: ([06:00](#))

Can you just give us a bit of that backstory before we get going on some questions from both a relational and a pastoral perspective? How did that transition happen? We're having a conversation between three people here who have never used and don't intend to, and yet here we are. What was that journey into this type of theological reflection like for you?

Dave Morlan: ([06:20](#))

Well, it was very sort of pastoral in nature. We planted a church here in the center of Denver and many of the people who started coming to fellowship when we started 16 years ago came from non-Christian backgrounds and were local and were already a part of kind of the marijuana/drug culture that is a part of Colorado's story. Just being a pastor doing the normal kind of pastor things, you sit down with people. As they process discipleship and following Jesus, their marijuana usage just became a normal regular conversation that I started to have. I was kind of forced to get some education on it and a little bit of background knowledge with it just to be able to converse with their experience.

Joanna Meyer: ([07:21](#))

Dave, we'll frame our conversation kind of in three concentric circles. The first is just starting with a biblical perspective for thinking about marijuana, and then we'll take a step or to it in the next ring out and thinking about the pastoral implications, implications for Christian discipleship and the way we engage culture. And then our final ring, we're going to step back even further and use marijuana as a case study to think about like, how do we engage issues that feel like gray areas in work and daily life. Kind of three different levels of conversation. But to get us started, help us think what does the Bible say about marijuana use?



Dave Morlan: ([07:53](#))

Well, it doesn't mention marijuana directly. I mean, there's not like a verse that says don't use pot. You're not going to find that. You're also not going to find the super encouraging verse that encourages to use pot. It's not directly mentioned. You'll find proof text being used in this discussion kind of on both sides, but it's not there either way. The best place to go though I think for a disciple of Jesus is see where it is clear about intoxication, about sort of what a Christian really growth looks like. Any context in which you lose control, where you lose sort of your own agency, that's not good for a Christian. Paul's language would go something along the lines of don't be drunk with wine, which is dissipation, but be filled with the spirit.

Dave Morlan: ([09:12](#))

And in that passage in Ephesians, Paul is simply just saying, "Hey, what's controlling you? If you lose self-control, if the spirit loses control, then you're giving over your agency to something else. And that's not what the path of discipleship looks like." With marijuana usage especially, it is giving up of some of your agency and control. I think even though it's not directly mentioning marijuana, I think there are a lot of implications of marijuana usage with the prohibition for Christians to getting drunk.

Joanna Meyer: ([09:57](#))

Now, I know that there are some nuances to this and conversations that you and I have had. You've referenced some passages in Proverbs that while they don't like openly endorsed the casual use of marijuana, they do allow some situations where it might be acceptable. Can you tell us a little bit more about that?

Dave Morlan: ([10:15](#))

Yeah. Proverbs 31, the beginning section of it, I think has great wisdom for us. It's actually written by the mother of a king and she's writing to her son saying that in his position of responsibility, it isn't right for him to be given over to strong drink. Because if he's given over to strong drink, he might forget the rights of the poor and marginalized, and that's not proper for a king to do that. But then she says, "Give drink to those who are suffering so that they can forget their miseries." She's basically saying there are certain context in which the merciful thing to do is perhaps to give the substances, she mentioned strong drink, but I think marijuana might fit in that context, where we're alleviating suffering in the short-term.

Dave Morlan: ([11:22](#))

Even though it doesn't change the long-term prospects, but in the short term, it is an act of mercy. It's taking away unbearable pain. There may be context where that makes sense for people. She kind of divides it up. She's like for those who are in positions of responsibility, don't take away anything that would dull your senses. But if someone's in a position where their senses are in such an overload, where they're in such pain and anguish, then give strong drink to them so that they can sort of get through,



hopefully for them would just be a season, of extreme pain and alleviate some of that suffering. I think that's sort of how I read Proverbs 31.

Brian Gray: ([12:17](#))

A quick follow up question, just as you talked about those passages biblically, I grew up in... Before I lived in the first legal weed culture, which is in Colorado, I grew up in kind of the heartbeat of illegal weed culture, which was Northern California. From high school through college, tons of my friends were smoking or growing their own. In that time, I rarely had a friend from their experience who would talk about use of marijuana, smoking it in the way that I hear people talk about moderation and drinking. Meaning marijuana seems to be a little bit more binary. I'm either not smoking or I'm smoking to get high, as opposed to I had a glass of wine with dinner or a beer in a meeting.

Brian Gray: ([13:03](#))

It seems like there's a difference. Any insights from that? Is that ignorance on my part? How do you hear and think about that? How does that even frame the really helpful insight you offered on agency in Ephesians 5?

Dave Morlan: ([13:17](#))

I think generally that is true. I mean, everyone's different. You can always find an exception in these sort of area of discussions. But I think generally it is true. If you're smoking pot, you're smoking to get high, to have that sensation. And then all of the side effects of that kind of fit under the category of high, of loss of agency. There's a feeling of kind of happiness that sometimes you get, but oftentimes it's loss of responsive... Like capacity to respond well. Don't drive, don't ride your bike when you're high. You become dangerous in that situation. Any website you go to that talks about the side effects of marijuana, those are true. Christians, they're forbidden I think under the not getting drunk.

Dave Morlan: ([14:22](#))

They're really forbidden from doing that because it is that loss of agency. Marijuana is different in that sense than drinking, have a glass of wine, and not have those effects, but pot is almost immediate because of the way you ingest it and the effect that THC versus alcohol is different. Now, if someone... I've had dozens of these conversations. If people use marijuana a lot, just like anything that you use, you can develop a kind of resistance to the effect. People use it a lot. They can say, "Oh yeah, I can use some of it and I'm fine. I'm not technically high," but they have to use it a ton to get to that effect. It gets you more engrossed and more entangled into it. I think that can be obviously problematic.

Jeff Hoffmeyer: ([15:32](#))

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Jeff Hoffmeyer: ([16:11](#))

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Joanna Meyer: ([16:24](#))

Dave, here's the question that I have for you is if you go to any farmer's market in Colorado, you will see all sorts of products made with marijuana derivatives. Some have THC, which is the intoxicating chemical compound, and others have CBD, which is the non-intoxicating compound. You'll see lotion and teas and chocolates that are infused with CBD as our next great hope. Do you think the Bible speaks against that?

Dave Morlan: ([16:47](#))

I don't think the Bible directly speaks against it. I feel like with the category of wisdom though, is it smart to take these products thinking that whatever it is they're claiming is true. I feel like for Christians to have a lot of discernment is really important with those products. It may be permissible, technically permissible, yeah, but is it profitable? Is it actually good for you? Is what the product being marketed for, what it's promising, is there actual proof that it does what it's saying it can do?

Dave Morlan: ([17:39](#))

To me, that's more my concern as a pastor for people who get into those products. It's not just those products, but any product that makes these big claims that the actual medical research behind it doesn't support that claim. I just feel like I have a ton of caution, a lot of like yellow flags. If not red flags, yellow flags. Proceed with caution with that stuff. Is that something that a disciple chooses ought to be getting into? I would have some yield signs for those folks.

Brian Gray: ([18:15](#))

Hey, let's switch gears though a little bit. Joanna mentioned a couple of different levels. We've talked about this a little bit at the personal ethical level. Let's pull back out. Dave, you represent a very winsome voice that is in how we engage broader culture on gray area issues like this. Now, it might not be a gray area issue for you or for us, as we talked about your understanding of Ephesians 5, but we do exist in a culture where there's a multitude of views. Those aren't just outside of the church. Those are inside the walls of the church. A couple questions. Your church, you mentioned, Fellowship Denver, is physically located right over on what we call the Green Mile in Denver, which is all kinds of antique shops and rug shops and pot dispensaries all in this one little area.



Brian Gray: ([19:07](#))

I'd be curious, how have you both represented conviction, but also a winsomeness on how you've handled matters of discipleship inside the church even?

Dave Morlan: ([19:20](#))

Honestly, it's been a joy to get to know our neighbors and that's really the perspective we have with all of the owners of these pot shops that are literally our neighbors, even on our block. Our direct next door neighbor is a pot shop and our direct neighbor across the street is a pot shop. These are people who we see every day. As with I think a lot of industries that maybe have the bad reputation sometimes for good reasons, the people who are actually running it, who are actually sort of working in it, they're real people. I think engaging them as fellow image bearers who each has a story that's led them into where they work and approaching them sort of as people, first and foremost, is really important.

Dave Morlan: ([20:23](#))

I feel like for us, as a community, we have to embrace the tension between two commands. First is to be salt and light, so we have to be distinct. There are things that are true and good and things that are false and corrosive. Those are objective. We can't ignore that. But we hold that intention with another thing we have to do, we're committed to do, which is to be friends with sinners and tax collectors, but the call of the gospel extends to all people. These are our neighbors.

Dave Morlan: ([21:05](#))

What good does it do for us to be maybe super clear on this sort of cultural issue, but then not be relationally engaged and loving in such a way that you can't communicate the gospel in a way that they understand it and having tact and a posture that is not overly condemning so you can develop a relationship. They can actually experience some of the goodness of the gospel, and then deal with the issue of that particular industry from the context of discipleship. To me, that's where the real gold is.

Brian Gray: ([21:52](#))

You're not just thoughtful, but you actually practice... Your closest friends, who's not a believer, is a leading advocate in the marijuana industry. I'm thinking back to a younger version of me in my early twenties who is wrestling with a question, how do I understand Christian ethics or a Christian stance as applied to people who are outside the church? You just really winsome thoughts on how to do that well, but tell us a little bit more about this friendship.

Dave Morlan: ([22:21](#))

Well, it started like a lot of, I think, authentic real friendships. At least in my kind of situation of life, our kids were going to school together and we met on the playground with our tiny kids. And then over the course now of several years, we've become really close and vacation together. He's from the same part



of the country you're from. Marijuana was just something that both he and his wife were... It would had been odd or weird for them not to participated in it. It's sort of a default part of his value system.

Dave Morlan: ([23:06](#))

He's not ignorant of the negative byproducts. He has had family members who have OD'd not on marijuana, but on sort of in the drug culture. He's not ignorant about that, but the relationship has been real and authentic. I love him. He loves me. He has me actually come in and teach a faith perspective on pot in his class that he teaches. He's an anthropologist and professor at UCD. I come in and I'm the faith and pot guy.

Brian Gray: ([23:41](#))

The weed pastor.

Dave Morlan: ([23:42](#))

The weed pastor has been coined for his class. I've had him come in to give his perspective on some sort of open forums that I've been a part of that are more sort of in Christian world. But it's just a deep friendship where there's a lot of acceptance, but also honesty. You have to be candid, real with each other and slowly but surely I think be able to influence, I think, in a real meaningful, good way for him. It's just a real relationship. Our kids are now teenagers. That's a whole other kind of dynamic where they're all sort of now a part of. They're engrossed into a marijuana culture. Our kids, I think, have gotten a very hopefully a good sort of gospel perspective on it and his kids are different in that regard. We have to navigate this as parents and respect our differences as well.

Brian Gray: ([24:59](#))

I heard two things from you that was a part of that friendship. One was along the way, there was probably a posture of listening, suspending judgment initially, and then probably finding ways to appropriately, carefully agree to disagree on some places. Be our pastor for a minute. If people in your church, you're commending to them, how do you love people well, but from a place of conviction, a salt light? Any other practices that you think have been helpful in that friendship or that you'd commend to us?

Dave Morlan: ([25:32](#))

The way I would counsel people is not to settle the tension. I feel like the tension is where we're called to sit. It's being distinct and different in and amongst people who are different. It's that tension. If your tension's relieved by, now I'm just going to be in a community that... I'm only with people who believe and act and behave in a way that I approve of, then you're no longer being a friend of tax collectors and sinners. If you begin to be a friend of tax collectors and sinners, but then find yourself being converted into that culture, which you see here pretty on a regular basis, Christians get lost into and just reflect whatever the values of Denver culture are. That's unfortunate.



Dave Morlan: ([26:34](#))

That's a tragedy because now they've lost being a light. They've lost insult. There's no longer any distinction. To me, it's just maintain the tension. There's no relief from that. It keeps things interesting. If you feel like you need relief from it, and if you aren't feeling that tension, then you've probably gone too far into Christian world, or you've now been converted into just the cultural currents of the day and that's not right either.

Joanna Meyer: ([27:06](#))

Gosh. One of the things about hosting a podcast is that you get to learn with your mouth open. I feel like I'm always revealing my ignorance to our audience. I've thought about Jesus being a friend of tax collectors and sinners. I just haven't applied it to life in Colorado and what that actually means in daily friendships in our community here. Thanks for making that connection. Before we get too far down the road, I want to make sure we talk a little bit about how you're seeing this play out in the actual discipleship of Christian folks in our church, because I know that you sit... Like you said, you've had innumerable conversations with people about pot use and it has profound effects.

Joanna Meyer: ([27:47](#))

It's very easy in a pot friendly culture to be like, "Oh, this is innocuous. It doesn't have a broader impact. It's a temporary high, and then I go back to life." I know that you have seen deeper effects in people's lives. Can you tell us a little bit more about like in the relational health and lives of Christians that are heavily smoking pot? What are you seeing from the ground level?

Dave Morlan: ([28:07](#))

There's two kind of repeated issues that I see. The first is what broadly could be understood, and some people there's a diagnosis, it's actually called amotivational syndrome, which is... Part of what THC does is the... What it triggers in your brain is actually the same part of your brain that's triggered whenever you accomplish something. For example, if you work hard on a project and it gets accepted and it's a real achievement that you've accomplished, the joy that you get, you get this kind of joy of accomplishment, right? Marijuana triggers that same part of your brain.

Dave Morlan: ([29:04](#))

What I see, especially in young men, not exclusively, but it's like probably 80/20, so mostly in young men, is that if they're using marijuana regularly, they can get stuck in a rut where they just don't have the motivation to do things like work hard in the job. If they are engaged or have a romantic relationship, they don't really do the kind of work to develop relational trust, to progress towards maybe being a meaningful good spouse, potential spouse to a person. They don't have that, and so they can be stuck. Part of the reason why is because marijuana gives them the sensation of accomplishment without having to do anything. That's obviously problematic for society. It's problematic for them personally.



Dave Morlan: ([30:02](#))

It diminishes their own capacity to be a meaningful contributor to a community. I see that, and then related, there's another kind of syndrome or a diagnosis called CUD, which is a cannabis use disorder. Cannabis use disorder, CUD, basically it's when someone gets addicted to it. They know that it's a problem in their relationship with their spouse. They know it's interfering their ability to take care of their kids, but they just can't seem to kick it. They get addicted to it. If you look at studies, roughly about 10% of people who begin to use marijuana essentially become addicted to it. They want to quit, but they just can't.

Dave Morlan: ([31:04](#))

That's a pretty regular conversation I have with people in pastoral counseling is, "I know I'm not supposed to use it, but I just can't help it. I just find myself..." And it's everywhere. It's ubiquitous. You can buy pot everywhere. You can go to church and then go literally across the street to get your edible. People, I see you when you do that. I see that.

Joanna Meyer: ([31:31](#))

Oh, wow!

Brian Gray: ([31:31](#))

Dave, you're blowing my mind because here I thought all my buddies all the time were super lazy and you're telling me is that in their own minds, killing it on their to-do list and just knocking stuff off left and right. I just thought they were high and hungry.

Dave Morlan: ([31:48](#))

That's right. What's fascinating is that it does make you dumber. In terms of longitudinal studies, I think that IQ, somewhere around two to five points get taken off your IQ if you are a long-term user of pot. It does make you dumber, but you don't feel dumber. What the impact of it is real. It's a real impact [inaudible 00:32:20]

Joanna Meyer: ([32:19](#))

We want to shift the conversation to that farthest outer ring I was describing of thinking about how it relates to our work. Because the reality is in Colorado, marijuana is a lifestyle, but it's also an industry. People are working in a job that has questional benefits, as we've said. And that's not the only type of work that I would describe as maybe a gray area. You could be working in a suit in the finance industry and still can have exploitative practices. That would be gray. There are plenty of forms of work that kind of tempt us into behavior that we might feel like is morally questionable.



Joanna Meyer: ([32:54](#))

I'm wondering if you have any practical insights and general principles for folks that may be in the type of job that feels a little questionable, principles that they could use to evaluate how to respond to those gray areas.

Dave Morlan: ([33:08](#))

I do feel like that listening, getting to know and listening to people into industry is important. If you come out strong with kind of blanket statements, then people just get settled into their little faction and they're not going to listen to you. I feel like listening... One of my other good friends, actually I played basketball with him this morning, he owns several pot shops in town. He really believes that his industry is helping people get off meth. Transitioning people off of meth onto marijuana. It's like the gateway drug, but in the other way. Now, whether or not that is 100% true, I believe him that there are instances where that has happened. He's telling me these stories.

Dave Morlan: ([34:14](#))

I believe him. Whether or not that's true sort of broad scale, I have lots of questions about it, but it wouldn't do any good for our relationship if I just dismissed that out of hand. I feel like for Christians who want to actually make a meaningful difference and have influence and persuasion in an industry like this, you have to build trust with them, and that starts with listening well. And then be honest with the effects that you see of the industry as you see it. Trust your eyes. Gosh, it looks like that traffic deaths in Colorado that are related to marijuana, that they're skyrocketing right now. How do you respond to that?

Dave Morlan: ([35:10](#))

Honest engagement and challenge with people where there's trust, it helps prevent them from just going into their lizard brain and just kind of being in defense mode, but actually engaging the question and the challenge. I feel like with stuff like this, I feel like Christians, they need to listen and then be honest. And then when you get in close, that's when light is most impactful. That's when you know salt is only a preservative when it's actually rubbed into decaying flesh. I feel like you're not going to have that proximity to these industries if you don't allow yourself to be in relationship, but then also maintain that distinction. That's where the power is.

Joanna Meyer: ([36:02](#))

All kinds of stuff to be thinking about. Brian, we have time for maybe one more question, any final thoughts for Dave, and then I'm going to give him an opportunity to have the final word.

Brian Gray: ([36:12](#))

There's a lot of other... Joanna alluded to it. There's a lot of other gray areas that people outside of the marijuana industry are dealing with, whether it's partial truths and sales, or whether it is manipulative practices in marketing. As believers encounter different issues like this, what are the types of things you



would commend to them in terms of considering the specific aspects of their work as benefit, blessing, or a prohibition in terms of their place in society?

Dave Morlan: [\(36:48\)](#)

I feel like for Christians in that industry, those in industries like that maybe it fits in that gray area, it's important for them to ask the question, is this a net positive, or is it not? And to be honest about it. When you put all of your work up, the pluses and the minuses, is this overall actually good for the broader flourishing of a community, or is it taking advantage of a community? Maybe some are profiting, but more people than not are actually being taken advantage of. I feel like Christians have to be really honest with themselves about that. Not in a super judgemental way, but in an honest way that then gives them a pathway.

Dave Morlan: [\(37:52\)](#)

If you find yourself working in the pot industry as a Christian, what would a pathway forward for me look like if I want to take my discipleship seriously and be honest that my industry is taking advantage of a whole segment of society? What does it look like for me to move forward in a Christ honoring way, that also isn't just sort of dropping bombs and destroying bridges as you move forward necessarily? Now, sometimes there are times where you do have to I think throw the gauntlet down and say, "Hey, it's just wrong. It's bad," and we just have to kind of call a spade a spade with it. I think there are times where that has to happen. But I think for Christians just to be honest with their own industry.

Dave Morlan: [\(38:49\)](#)

You think of Jesus when he said about first remove the log out of your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the spec out of your brother's side. I feel like for all Christians, to be honest with your own industry. I've done this with the church. Is our neighborhood better off because we exist in this area? That's a question that I have to ask. Are we taking advantage of this neighborhood of tax benefits to advance our own agenda, or is the neighborhood actually better off, are people's lives better off because we exist? I want to be honest about the answer to that question. I think it's better off, but I want to be honest about the question. I think all Christians should ask themselves that in terms of their work.

Brian Gray: [\(39:51\)](#)

That's a great framework, a great place to end. I will not tell you about my other side business in snake oil sales later on because of that. I'm not sure it's a plus benefit to society.

Dave Morlan: [\(40:03\)](#)

Good. I'm glad to hear that.



Joanna Meyer: ([40:05](#))

Dave, I love getting to learn with you on Sundays at church, but also in this context. I want to give you a chance to have a final word for our listeners. We often like to give our guests, since you guys are the experts, the chance to offer a charge to our listeners to think about what a life of godliness and cultural engagement for the Lord in our life and our work looks like. How would you challenge our speakers to live out the principles we've talked about today?

Dave Morlan: ([40:29](#))

I'd say for any disciple of Jesus, the question of pot usage personally is permissible versus profitable. If as a Christian I'm using pot, it may be permissible. And in some rare cases, maybe even the right thing to do. But is it actually profitable? Is it good for your community? Is it good for your family? I feel like those are the questions that I would lead any disciple to ask, profitable versus permissible. Now, that's the personal question.

Dave Morlan: ([41:17](#))

I think our posture towards the culture and towards the industry, we need to have a posture of engagement and of compassion, kindness, candid, but also we're called to be friends of tax collectors and sinners and to do life with people who are involved with industries that we don't necessarily agree with, we don't think is good, even objectively for society. Nevertheless, we're called to engage them and to be salt and light in that engagement. That's what I would sort of leave with our listeners today.

Joanna Meyer: ([41:58](#))

Thanks, Dave, for your time and your wisdom. I look forward to continuing to learn with you.

Dave Morlan: ([42:02](#))

It was a joy, guys.

Joanna Meyer: ([42:07](#))

Wow! What a challenging conversation. If you're intrigued by what we talked about today, if this type of conversation is one that you'd like to continue more, I invite you to join us, if you're in the Denver Metro area, Tuesday morning, August 23rd for Colorado Conversations. It's a breakfast conversation. We'll be exploring the theme of building a better workplace, like what it looks like is a Christian to positively shape the culture in our workplaces. All the information about that gathering will be in today's show notes. You can find out how to participate and register for your tickets there. Thanks for joining us again for this thought-provoking conversation.

Joanna Meyer: ([42:40](#))

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