

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

It is one thing to *believe* that rules don't apply to you. It is another to *announce* that belief. Early this month a Kentucky woman was arrested for a crime she confessed to—on her T-shirt!

Just after midnight on November 4, four members of the Laurel County (Kentucky) Sheriff's Department arrested Deborah Asher and Richard Rice for felony narcotics possession and drug trafficking. The two were found in possession of 3.37 grams of methamphetamine, digital scales, and cash presumed to have come from drug sales.

What has set social media ablaze after this arrest is the booking photo taken of Asher. She is wearing a black T-shirt with the slogan “I Love Crystal Meth.” The photo and pictures of the drugs, scales, and cash were posted on the Laurel County Sheriff's Department [Facebook](#) page. At the time this article was written, the post had been shared almost 300 times.

Asher and Rice had been suspected of drug dealing, and were arrested after informants tipped police to the location of their drug hideout. Asher was held in the county jail on a \$25,000 bond. She was scheduled to appear in court on Wednesday, November 12.

Over the past few years, several people have been arrested while wearing a T-shirt that seemed to confess their crimes. Here is a sampling of these:

Andrew Anderson was arrested in June of this year after police seized marijuana, cash, and drug paraphernalia from his car and his residence. When the 22-year-old Kentucky man was arrested, he was wearing a T-shirt reading, “All My Friends Are Baked”; that is, high.

In September 2010, a Connecticut man was arrested for drunk driving after losing control of his car and crashing into a house. This was 50-year-old James Johnson's fourth arrest on this charge. When arrested, he sported a “I Have A Drinking Problem” T-shirt.

In September 2013, Timothy Duane Brown was arrested for public drunkenness. In his booking photos, the Oklahoma man was wearing a T-shirt announcing, “I'm Not an Alcoholic—I'm a Drunk. Alcoholics Go to Meetings.”

Illinois resident Daniel Kowalski was arrested in February of this year after police discovered a methamphetamine lab in his house. At the time, he was wearing a T-shirt inspired by *Breaking Bad*, a TV program about a high school chemistry teacher who manufactures and sells crystal meth.

As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above news story to read. After all teens have had the opportunity to read the article, discuss it in this way:

Why might we find the stories of people wearing T-shirts admitting their lawlessness funny? What do you think motivates lawbreakers to wear such shirts? How might their wardrobe choices have differed if they'd known they would be wearing such a shirt in front of law-enforcement officials?

People find it easy to defy authority when no authority figure is present. The illusion that someone can break a law without being caught can have severe consequences, however. Today we are going to take a look at authority and why God established it.