

CHRISTIANS AND ALCOHOL

JOHN 2:7-11

Wine was the normal drink of the people in that day; so we cannot use this miracle alone as an argument for the social consumption of alcohol today.

SO WHAT DOES THE REST OF THE BIBLE REALLY SAY ABOUT THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL?

- ***SOME SCRIPTURES TO PONDER: LUKE 22:18; ISA. 5:11-22; PROV. 20:1; HAB. 2:15-16; EPH. 5:18; 1 COR. 8:9, 1 COR. 10:23 & 31; PROV. 31:4-7, PROV. 23:29-30; ROM. 14:21; MIC. 2:11***
- ***FOR PASTORS AND LEADERS: 1 TIM. 3:1-8***

HOW DOES ALCOHOL AFFECT HUMANS?

According to the A.M.A., C.D.C., and the U.S. Surgeon General's office (surgeongeneral.gov):

- Tests show that after drinking three bottles of beer, there is an average of **13 percent net short-term memory loss**.
- Trained typist errors increased **40 percent**.
- Only one ounce of alcohol increases the time required to make a split-second decision by **nearly 10 percent**.
- ***Alcohol is a deadly poison to 100% of all humans.***

THE BIBLE IS NOT AMBIGUOUS ON ALCOHOL

Among Christians, there are two primary and opposing camps of thought on this sensitive topic.

- 1.** The first group argues that Jesus Himself drank wine, and since a Christian is a follower of Christ, how can it be forbidden?
- 2.** Alcohol is an addictive and destructive drug that no sincere Christian should use to any degree.
- 3.** And innumerable hybrids of these two views.

THE TWO TYPES OF WINE

The Bible translators never used the term “grape juice.” In the Hebrew text, different words are used to distinguish between the two.

- The word **tîyrôsh** is used for new unfermented wine, and **yayin** is generally used for fermented wine.
- However, in the New Testament, only one **Greek word** is used to describe both fermented and fresh grape juice: **oinis**. Context alone was used to define which it was, ***LIKE AT THE LAST SUPPER—PASSOVER!***

THE ALCOHOL HALL OF SHAME

- 1.** The first reference to wine is found in Genesis when Noah created the first fermented grape juice (**GEN. 9:21**)—**that went well!**
- 2.** Lot also drank, and he was easily seduced into incestuous relations with his daughters. **GEN. 19:33**
- 3.** The children of Israel drank alcohol, stripped naked and worshiped a golden calf. **EXODUS 32:6, 25**
- 4.** Fermented wine brings woe. **ISAIAH 5; PROV. 23; HAB. 2; 2 SAMUEL 13:28; JOB 1:13-19**

ALCOHOL AND YOUR HEALTH

“You are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

1 COR. 6:20

- From liver disease to ulcers to dementia, an endless list of health problems have been linked to the drinking of alcohol.
- Alcohol slowly destroys body and mind, which is a clear violation of the Sixth Commandment.
- Alcohol has killed more people than war!

SOME CLOSING THOUGHTS

- Alcohol invites temptation.
- Alcohol leads to tarnished testimonies.
- What, “*a little wine for the stomach*”? **1 TIM. 5:23**
- Biblical medicinal use. **PROV. 31:6-7**
- Is there really such a thing as moderate drinking?
EPH. 5:18; 1 PETER 4:4; LUKE 15:13
- We are a nation of priests and kings. **1 PETER 2:9;**
LEV. 10; PROV. 31:4

HAVE WE LEARNED NOTHING?

“Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.” **GEN. 9:21**

- It is sobering to realize that even 4,300 years later, the sin of Noah is still wrecking families today.
- While the Bible does not command total abstinence, it certainly magnifies its dangers in the extreme, and definitely warns against the sin of drunkenness.

LET'S BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT, not anything else that could harm or lead us or anyone on earth astray and then watch Jesus do real miracles!