

Wine - 4

Introduction

1. This is the final lesson in our four part series on "wine."
2. We are going to look at some questions people ask concerning wine or alcohol in the Bible.

Questions Concerning Wine

- **Doesn't Proverbs 31:6-7 allow people to drink alcohol?**

Proverbs 31:6-7 Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to those who are bitter of heart. Let him drink and forget his poverty, And remember his misery no more.

1. This passage must be kept in context with verses 1-5. These are the words that King Lemuel's mother told him.
 - A. Furthermore, verses 6-7 is to be contrasted with verses 4-5. It is not for kings and those in authority to drink because they forget God's word when intoxicated.
 - 1) In contrast, give a drink to people who are "ready to perish." Strong drink was given to someone as a painkiller when he was nearing death in Bible days.
 - a. Likened to our morphine, various narcotics, and painkillers given by our doctors for certain patients who are ready to die or have extreme pain relieved.
 - 2) Proverbs 31:6-7 does not justify social or recreational drinking.

- **Didn't Noah and Lot get drunk?**
1. **Yes, they got drunk. These passages certainly can't be used as examples of God's acceptance of social drinking! The context of these passages indicate that these men were passed-out drunk! There were harmful and horrible consequences because of their actions.**
 - A. **Noah was seen naked in his tent, and when he awoke from being drunk, he was angry (Genesis 9:24-25).**
 - B. **Lot's daughters conspired to get him drunk and then committed incest with him (Genesis 19:30-38). He was so drunk he had no idea when the act was committed.**
 2. **These are not passages that are helpful to the position that could justify "social drinking" as being acceptable before God.**
 3. **To the contrary the conduct of Noah and Lot should serve as examples to avoid the use of alcohol.**
 4. **These spiritually powerful men did things while drunk that they would have never done while sober!**

- **Doesn't a Christian have the liberty to drink alcohol because of what Paul said in Romans 14:21?**

Romans 14:21 It is good neither to eat meat **nor drink wine** nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.

- 1. Romans 14-15 describe the liberties Christians have and how the strong brother needs to "receive" and bear the weak (14:1; 15:1).**
 - A. Was Paul really saying that Christians have the liberty to drink alcohol at times?**
 - B. Let us not forget that the word "wine" is a general term (oinos). It is never right to assume that this word means an alcoholic beverage.**
 - C. Paul is talking about matters that are lawful to do. Hopefully, at this point in our lessons, we understand that drinking alcohol in a "social" or "recreational" sense is a sin.**
 - 1) Christians never have the liberty to engage in anything that is sin.**

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 Test all things; hold fast what is good. **Abstain from every form of evil.**

1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts** which war against the soul,

- 2. Romans 14:21 does nothing to prove or allow the "social" drinking of alcohol because this passage is telling folks to stop if by partaking it entices another to sin.**

Conclusion

1. **What if someone were to say, "A wise and good thing to do is to start drinking alcohol?" Would you defend this statement?**
 - A. **Is this something that ought to be encouraged? What about encouraging our children to drink alcohol?**
 - 1) **Since other people do it, is it okay for a Christian?**
 - 2) **Can we justify drinking alcohol for "health" reasons?**
 - a. **Some in the scientific community now say that no amount of alcohol is safe for one's overall health.**
2. **Until someone is willing to defend the statement that says, "A wise and good thing to do is to start drinking alcohol," there is nothing else to say.**
 - A. **Arguing on "technicalities," what is legal in a country, what certain cultures do or do not do is irrelevant.**
 - B. **God says that it is NOT wise to drink alcohol.**

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

- 1) **What answer will we give when asked about drinking alcohol?**

3. God does NOT want us to drink alcohol in a “social” or “recreational” way. What He does want from us is to be sober-minded!

1 Peter 5:8 **Be sober**, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

1 Thessalonians 5:6-8 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and **be sober**. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day **be sober**, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

A. Being sober-minded is impossible with alcohol in our bodies. One drink means we’re a percentage drunk because we are no longer 100% sober!

4. A Christian who diligently strives to be pleasing to their heavenly Father, is one who no longer lives according to the flesh!

1 Peter 4:2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, **but for the will of God**.

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death, but **to be spiritually minded is life and peace**.

A. Living according to the spirit means we will not use our bodies in ways that God condemns. Our bodies belong to God!

1 Corinthians 6:20

1) This means we will not act like those of the world and drink alcohol. We must make sure we listen to the Lord and act as He wants us to act.

It is NOT wise to drink alcohol – because God says NO!

