

Worldliness

Drinking

Introduction

- 1. Drinking and drunkenness is a big problem today.**
 - A. It is a problem that is nearly as old as man**
 - 1) Noah got drunk (Genesis 9:20)**
 - 2) Lot got drunk (Genesis 19:30-38)**
- 2. I believe that we all know that drunkenness is a sin, especially since the Bible specifically names it as such (Luke 21:34; 1 Peter 4:3; Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:21)**
 - A. But what about social drinking?**
 - B. Moderate drinking?**
 - C. Responsible drinking? (Can there be such a thing?)**
 - D. Having just an occasional beer or wine?**
- 3. In this morning's lesson we are going to examine the scriptures so as to show that any drinking of alcoholic beverages are sinful.**

Arguments Made to Try to Justify Drinking

1. Jesus turned water into wine (John 2:1-11), therefore drinking alcohol is alright.

A. "Wine" does not always mean an intoxicating beverage. We need to ensure that we define Bible words, not as we use them today, but as they were used then.

1) "Wine" simply meant the juice of the grape, whether fermented, freshly squeezed, or even still in the grape on the vine.

Isaiah 16:10 Gladness is taken away, And joy from the plentiful field; In the vineyards there will be no singing, Nor will there be shouting; No treaders will tread out wine in the presses; I have made their shouting cease.

Isaiah 65:8 Thus says the LORD: "As the new wine is found in the cluster, And one says, 'Do not destroy it, For a blessing is in it,' So will I do for My servants' sake, That I may not destroy them all.

See Chart on "Wine" (Greek: Oinos)

B. There is certainly no Biblical evidence that the water that Jesus turned into wine was a "fermented" wine.

1) Besides, if this example justified "social drinking" then it would certainly justify EXCESSIVE social drinking!

2. Timothy was told to drink a little wine, therefore I can drink a little.

1 Timothy 5:23 No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.

A. Again, there is no Biblical proof that this was "fermented" wine. Additionally, this was suggested by Paul for Timothy's particular medical situation – can't be used to justify drinking.

3. Deacons are “not given to much wine”, therefore I can partake of wine, just not much.

1 Timothy 3:8 Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, **not given to much wine**, not greedy for money,

A. Some individuals make this passage assume that they can have “a little.”

B. Forbidding excess does not justify less. For example:

Ecclesiastes 7:17 Do not be **overly wicked**, Nor be foolish: Why should you die before your time?

1) Does this mean we can be a little bit wicked or moderately wicked and still be acceptable to God?

Romans 6:12 Therefore **do not let sin reign** in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

1) Does this mean we can let a little sin, perhaps a moderate amount of sin reign, as long as it is not “complete” or “full?”

4. God would not condemn drunkenness in various passages and authorize the use of wine (fermented) that can lead to drunkenness in others. **Because we learn that:**

Drinking Is Drunkenness

1. **Most individuals agree that drunkenness is sinful, condemned by the Bible, and should not be engaged in.**

Galatians 5:19-21

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Ephesians 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit

- A. **However, some insist on arguing “the Bible does not say that I sin just by taking one drink of liquor for social purposes, or by drinking one beer. The sin is in getting drunk, not in the limited consumption of alcohol.”**
- B. **An individual who defends social drinking on the basis that the Bible only condemns drunkenness, fails to recognize the fact that there are degrees of drunkenness.**
 - 1) **What is drunkenness? Does one have to be “stone drunk” in order to be Biblically drunk – thus violating Biblical teaching?**

2. Social drinking is also drunkenness

A. In the New Testament several Greek words are translated drunk, drunken, drunkenness.

- 1) W. E. Vine observes regarding the word “methusko” that it signifies “to make drunk, or to grow drunk, or to become intoxicated.”**

Luke 12:45 But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk,

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.

- 2) W. E. Bullinger says that “methusko” means “to grow drunk.”**

- a) We can see from these definitions that there are degrees of drunkenness. One is as drunk as the amount that he drinks!**

- b) If it takes 4 beers to make an individual “stone drunk” then they are 1/4 drunk after one beer.**

B. One drink equals a percentage of drunkenness which will lead to a greater state of drunkenness.

C. Alcoholic beverages are a strong drink.

- 1) Strong drink is condemned.**

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

Drinking is Harmful

- 1. Alcohol is a poison, it is a narcotic – a drug. It has proven to cause damage to the brain.**
- 2. It is a sin to purposefully harm our bodies.**

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you**, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- A. As stewards we will take care of our body because we realize that it belongs to God.**

Drinking is Condemned

- 1. Peter writes:**

1 Peter 4:1-4 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also **with the same mind**, for he who has suffered in the flesh has **ceased from sin**, 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**. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles — when we walked in lewdness, lusts, **drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties**, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same **flood of dissipation**, speaking evil of you.

- A. The King James Version says “banqueting.” These are drinking parties. One cannot have a drinking party without drinking. One cannot become “stone drunk” unless one first drinks.**
 - 1) This passage condemns all phases of drinking.**

2. Peter goes on to tell us that we must be sober.

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

- A. **Vines tells us that sober is: “free from the influence of intoxicants”**
- B. **Donnagan’s Lexicon says that it means to abstain.**

Drinking Influences Others

1. So called moderate social drinking is a major cause of recruiting new drinkers.

- A. **These do not influence the drunk or alcoholic, but rather those who have never drank before.**
- B. **Jesus warns:**

Matthew 18:6-7 Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, **but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!**

Scriptural Principles Violated by Those Who Drink

1. **One who is a so called “social drinker” cannot be an influence for good among believers or sinners.**

Matthew 5:13-16

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

2. **One cannot scripturally convince the “stone drunk” drunkard that he must cease his drunkenness while the so called “social drinker” holds to his own drinking.**

Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no provision** for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

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**.

3. **The drinker is intentionally and knowingly destroying his mind and body which is to be preserved, not destroyed.**

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore **glorify God in your body and in your spirit**, which are God's.

4. **One who drinks cannot abstain from fleshly lusts.**

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

Conclusion

1. **In light of the total teaching of scripture on the attitudes and behavior Christians ought to show to the world, the responsible position is to avoid the use of alcohol altogether.**
2. **Alcohol leads to unhappiness. Millions of homes stand as living monuments to the unhappy effect that liquor can have.**

**Alcohol kills everything that lives.
Alcohol preserves everything that is dead**

3. **One who never drinks at all:**
 - A. **Will never get drunk**
 - B. **Will never become an alcoholic**
 - C. **Will never be responsible for the damage drinking causes**
 - D. **Will never become enslaved to that controlling habit**
 - E. **Will never influence another person to drink**
 - F. **Will never destroy their body by drinking**
 - G. **Will never hurt Jesus and His church**

1 Corinthians 10:31-32 Therefore, whether you **eat or drink**, or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God**. Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God,

