

“What Does The Bible Really Teach About Drinking?”

1. Drunkenness is a sin (Ephesians 5:18, Isaiah 5:11-12, 1 Peter 4:1-3, Galatians 5:19-21). See it as sin that Jesus died for. Define it as controlled by, filled with, meaning BAC, dependence, losing control, getting buzzed, in an altered state, pushing the edge consistently.

A. We are commanded to obey our laws so underage drinking and providing alcohol for underage drinking is sinful (Romans 13:1-5).

B. Illicit drug use is also sinful because it is the equivalent of drunkenness (Ephesians 5:18). It also violates the biblical commands about our bodies being temples of the Holy Spirit and exercising self-control.

-Admit it, be honest, get help. It is tough because it is mental, physical, spiritual, emotional; but you can overcome in the power of Christ. You have to want it and be all in though. Surrender is necessary. Your thinking has to change. Justin Rymer said, “You have to chase your sobriety as hard as you chased your addiction.”

2. There is freedom to drink in moderation, but is there wisdom?

In other words, it is a gray area biblically so there is freedom to drink in careful moderation and freedom to abstain, but my conviction is that abstinence is the wisest choice.

Why do I believe there is freedom?

A. The Bible does not forbid drinking in moderation.

B. Jesus turned water into wine and apparently drank wine.

C. Scripture commends the use of wine in some cases and circumstances (Psalm 104:14-15, 1 Timothy 5:23).

D. This is the instruction of the pastoral epistles (1 Timothy 3:3, 8; Titus 1:7, 2:3).

E. Historically and currently, many Christians believe this is the correct biblical position.

So, I believe I cannot say that someone is in sin when they drink a little bit. However, that is not the end of the story biblically. There is another side to this biblically, which is why I say it is a gray area. There are some wisdom principles that need to be considered in making decisions about this issue.

Why do I believe there is wisdom in abstaining?

A. The warnings of Scripture (Proverbs 20:1, 23:29-35).

B. The fruit issue (Matthew 7:16, Galatians 6:7).

C. There is something of a difference between fermented wine in Bible times and distilled alcohol today.

D. Because of some questions to consider when evaluating gray areas:

-Is it helpful (1 Corinthians 6:12, 10:23)?

-Is it addictive (1 Corinthians 6:12)?

-Can it be done to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31)?

-Will I be ashamed of it at the Judgment seat of Christ or are you fully convinced in your mind that you can do it as unto the Lord (Romans 14:11-12, 23)?

-Is it a stumbling block to others (Romans 14:13, 21)?

E. Alcohol is a bad substitute for the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

Why are you drinking? Are you depending on alcohol for what you should be getting from the Holy Spirit? Jesus is the Bread of Life and Living Water who can fill you up. Read Solomon’s testimony in Ecclesiastes (1:1-2, 2:1-11, 12:13-14). **Trust Jesus and fully surrender your life to Him.**