

Instructions for the Game of Life (Part 8) Instructions for the Wise Use of Alcohol (Proverbs 20:1)

Introduction: ...In a country where there are at least twenty million problem drinkers, and millions of others who use alcohol to excess, we certainly need some instruction when it comes to the wise use of alcohol.

With over one hundred passages of scripture addressing the subject, we can answer three questions to help us settle the issue.

1. Question one: Is drinking alcohol forbidden in the Bible?

The short answer is no.

A. The Bible does not condemn drinking – (Ex. 29; Lev. 23; 1 Cor. 29:19; Jud.9:13; Ps. 104:15; Isa.24:9; 55:1-2; Jn. 13; 1 Tim. 5:23; Lk. 10:34; Prov. 31:6-7)

B. The Bible does condemn drunkenness –

In scripture and is identified as a pattern that belongs to our former life. (Rom. 13:13; Gal. 5:21; 1 Cor. 6:10,11; 1 Pe. 4:3; 1Thes 5:6-7)

1. *Drunkenness* is described as “Any point in which the alcohol takes over any part of your faculties.” (Prov. 20:1; 23:29-35)

2. *Drunkenness* is denounced because it can lead to:

1. *Poverty* – (Prov.23:20-21)
2. *Misery* – (Prov.23:29-32)
3. *Immorality* – (Prov.23:26-28)
4. *Instability* – (Prov.23:34-35)
5. *Eternal Hell* – (1 cor.6:9-10,11)

2. **Question two: Should a Christian ever drink alcohol?** This question is best answered through some other questions.

A. If Drinking is not wrong, does that automatically make it right?

1. Even though it is not called a sin it may not be right for us – For example: (Lev. 10:9; Num.6:3; Prov.31:4-5; 1 Tim.3; Titus 1:7) According to the Bible, all believers are kings, priests, and spiritual leaders and if they shouldn't drink...should we?
2. Even though it is not called a sin, it can lead to cause the stumbling of others – (Rom.14:19-21)

B. Well, if Jesus turned the water into wine and Paul told Timothy to drink wine, what's wrong with us drinking wine today? Those who use this reasoning are assuming the wine of the Bible is the same as the wine today.

1. **Jesus turned the water into “oinos” which simply means “juice of the grape.”**

- a. It's Heb. counter part “yayin” used 141 times in O.T. means to mix wine. Its root word means to boil. According to the Jewish encyclopedia, this mixing was not with other wines but with water. (Sometimes honey, herbs or myrrh were added, but with water.)
- b. So, we cannot claim it is okay to drink wine today because they drank it then unless we can prove it is the same wine. (There is overwhelming evidence it is not.)

2. **The wine of the Bible was a necessary part of their diet.**

- a. The water was not good for drinking as it still is not in most places in the Mid – East today.
- b. Paul told Timothy to drink some wine for his stomach.

C. **What's the harm in having a little wine now and then?** (1 Cor 6:12)

- **Alcohol abuse and alcoholism cut across gender, race, and nationality.** Nearly 14 million people in the United States--1 in every 13 adults--abuse alcohol or are alcoholic.
- **It has been documented:** If there's an alcoholic parent in the family, there's a 50 percent chance one of the children will become an alcoholic. If there are two alcoholic parents, it's an 85 percent chance.
- **How many drinks does it take to become an alcoholic?** Every alcoholic will tell you, just the first one!

3. **Question three: What should be my response to all of this?**

- The use of alcohol can be habit forming and destructive.
- While the Bible does not forbid wine or the drinking of wine, it does give us a better alternative. (Eph. 5:18)

A. Wine can be destructive -

B. Being filled with the Spirit is constructive -

- God wants us to be happy and joyful, but He wants us to find the resource of that joy & comfort in Him not artificially.
- The Holy Spirit is the Christians source of power, comfort, and joy in the Christian life.

Conclusion: No, the Bible doesn't condemn drinking, and nor call drinking alcohol a sin, though it does severely warn against its dangers and condemn drunkenness.

But God has given us something better than the spirits in a bottle, He's given us His Holy spirit of the Bible to come live in us.

So, the wise use of alcohol for the Christian would be, heed the warnings, avoid the dangers, abstain from it when and if necessary, and focus more on *...being continually filled with the Holy Spirit instead.*