

(ABC's that threaten Christian living)

Drinking And Drunkenness

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1986, (Rev. 99)

Timeless Truths (Why should I avoid drinking and drunkenness?)

1. One cannot make the comparison between the usage of today's alcoholic beverages with that of Bible times. (Distillation, which started in the 12th century, made it possible for 15% and higher levels of alcoholic content, whereas Bible wines were normally 5% or less in alcoholic content because of the dilution process of 1 part boiled down grape content and 6 to 20 parts water. The people of Bible times were very poor. They did not have the entertainment values we do today. Nor did they have the manufacturing and marketing trends of alcoholic beverages as we do today.)
2. One cannot justify the use of alcoholic beverages from certain "wine" passages. Our English translations do not always make a distinction between "grape juice" and an "alcoholic beverage" (Hb. "tirosh" verses "yayin" and Gr. "gleukos" verses "oinos"). The context many times will define "wine" as either "alcoholic" or "grape juice." Many scholars believe the "drink" of the Last Supper was equivalent to "grape juice" because the words "fruit of the vine" were used in Mat. 26:29.
3. Drunkenness is a work of the flesh, Gal. 5:21, and one cannot get "drunk" without drinking at least one "drink." "Alcoholism" is not a "disease," but is an addiction to "drunkenness." "Drunkenness" has both eternal consequences, 1 Cor. 6:10, and physical consequences, Prov. 23:29-35.
4. There is a deceitfulness associated with "alcoholic drinks" along with unchristian like practices (Prov. 20:1; 23:20-21,29-35; 31:4-5; Isa. 28:7; Lev. 10:8-10; Hab. 2:15).

Practical Prescriptions (How can I control drinking and drunkenness?)

1. Alleviate the possibility of drunkenness by not taking a drink!

"Do not look on the wine when it is red... sparkles in the cup... swirls around smoothly..." Prov. 23:31-32.

2. Abstain from drinking to improve your service & testimony for Christ!

- A. The Levitical priests were not allowed to drink wine or intoxicating drink while serving in the tabernacle because it would impair their judgment between holy and unholy, clean and unclean, Lev. 10:8-10.
- B. The Nazarites who gave their life for special service to the Lord were not to drink any wine while in special service, Num. 6:2-8.
- C. The virtuous woman stated that kings and princes should not drink wine or intoxicating drink because they would cause forgetfulness of the law and pervert justice, Prov. 31:4-5.
- D. Pastors (i.e. a bishop is a pastor is an elder) were not to drink wine at all, 1 Tim. 3:3; Tit. 1:7.
- E. "Do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation ... but be filled with the Spirit," Eph. 5:18
- F. "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," Rom. 14:21.

3. Adapt your lifestyle from the old Adam to your new position in Christ!

"For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in... drunkenness, drinking parties..." 1 Pt. 4:3-4 (Rom. 13:13; 14:23).

4. Avoid those who drink and parties where drinks are served!

- A. "For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in... drunkenness, drinking parties... in regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation..." 1 Pt. 4:3-4.
- B. "Do not mix with winebibbers..." Prov. 23:20.
- C. "Woe unto him that gives drink to his neighbor... even to make him drunk..." Hab. 2:15.