

Moral Issues of Our Time
Lesson 3 – The Snare of Drugs and Alcohol
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Introduction: We must seek God’s wisdom to overcome snares.

A. God’s wisdom concerning alcohol has always been true. (**Prov 20:1; 23:23-29**)

1. Wisdom is not always in a form of a commandment.
2. When wisdom is applied it is often more powerful than a commandment.
3. The wisdom concerning alcohol can be applied to all mind altering drugs.

B. What is a snare?

Snare - παγίς - (1) literally, anything that catches and holds fast *snare, trap, noose, net* (LU 21.35); (2) metaphorically; (a) used in RO 11.9 of a false sense of security that leads to a sudden and unexpected judgment *pitfall, concealed danger, source of error*; (b) as a stratagem of the devil for gaining control *deceitful trick, entanglement* (1T 3.7); (3) figuratively, as any allurement to wrongdoing *enticement, temptation, attraction* (1T 6.9) – Freiberg’s Lexicon

1. A snare is a result of cunning and deceit. You are outwitted by the one who snares you. Often your overconfidence is an essential element in the snare.
2. How many scoffers who despised wisdom are snared? (**Prov 18:6-7**)

C. A snare is costly to escape.

1. What are the costs to the raccoon who escapes the leghold trap? What if he doesn’t?
2. God provides for us a way to escape all snares. (**Ps 124:6-8; 1 Cor 10:12-13**)

I. The effects of alcohol in the world and in the church has been great

A. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the “use of alcohol is one of the world’s leading health risks.”

4% of all deaths worldwide are attributable to alcohol. • The harmful use of alcohol is especially fatal for younger age groups and alcohol is the world’s leading risk factor for death among males. 4.5% of the global burden of disease and injury is attributable to alcohol. • Alcohol consumption is estimated to cause from 20% to 50% of cirrhosis of the liver, epilepsy, poisonings, road traffic accidents, violence and several types of cancer.

Alcohol ranks eighth among global risk factors for death, while it is the third leading global risk factor for disease and disability.

B. In churches I have been with over half of the members have been affected in some way.

1. There are many within churches that hide these problems from others.
2. Addiction is about control. Who do you wish to control your life? (**Gal 5:16-17**)

II. Is Social Drinking Acceptable?

A. While the issue of social drinking and addiction are different but related issues it is important to note that addiction has a start.

1. Over 60% of the people in this country drink. 80% of college graduates do.
2. A new study shows that 32 million Americans, nearly one in seven adults, have struggled with a serious alcohol problem in the last year alone.
3. One out of seven who take their first drink becomes an alcoholic.

B. What is the “strong” drink of the scriptures? (**Prov 20:1; 31:4-6**)

1. Palestinian wines reached a maximum fermentation of 5 to 8 percent alcohol
2. A common practice in these times was to mix water with wine. The rates varied from 3 to 1 to 20 to 1 ratio of water to wine.

3. We make a great mistake in comparing modern beverages to bible wines!

C. There are different levels of drinking condemned in the NT. (1 Pt 4:3-4)

1. Is drunkenness the only thing condemned? No!

• The term “drinking parties” (Gr. πότος, potos) literally refers to “a drinking” without reference to amount. • R. C. Trench says concerning potos that it is drinking that is “not necessarily excessive.” He further says that it is related to words of excess in that it gives “opportunity for excess.”

2. We see both the action of social intercourse and the kind of drinking itself!

3. What other sins accompany the modern drink? (Gal 5:19-21) (See picture)

D. Consider the warnings concerning drunkenness. (1 Cor 5:11; 6:19-21; Lk 21:34-36)

1. You cannot go to heaven and be a drunkard.

2. Drunkenness has a beginning. How does one know when he is drunk?

E. Would you drink if you knew Jesus was coming today?

1. (Rom 13:11-14; 1 Cor 6:9-11) - The same argument can be made for modern drug abuse! Would Jesus smoke pot?

2. What attitudes and actions would one take if they truly believed this?

F. What does this do for your influence for Christ?

1. I have never known of a Christian who seriously wanted to reach the lost who was a social drinker. (1 Cor 9:18-23)

2. What are the fruits of drinking in this country? (Example: Friend at work.)

3. What if you saw an elder drinking at a bar? (Rom 14:13-23; 1 Peter 2:11-12)

II. The Deception of the High.

A. Drinking and drugs have deception at their core. (Prov 23:29-35)

1. Many want to escape. Depression and addiction are common partners.

2. The Christian can go to the Lord to face the hurts of life. (Mt 11:28-30)

B. Dishonesty becomes a way of life for the addict.

1. They deny the seriousness of their own situation. (“I do not have a problem!”)

2. Lying to others becomes a way of life. The biggest lie they tell to themselves!

3. In short they will not trust one who will tell them the truth and help.

D. “Friends” and Associates go with drugs.

1. Most start to belong to and individual or a group. This makes it very hard to quit.

2. Many are blind to the “dog-eat-dog” nature of these “friends.” (1 Pt 4:3-4)

3. This can be used as a wedge to separate brethren. (Ex. church at Birmingham)

Conclusion: Will anyone defend this: “The wise and good thing to do today is to start drinking alcohol or using drugs”?

Is it the right thing to do today?

Is it the wise thing to do today?

Is it something that will glorify God today?

Is it something that will strengthen my family today?

Is it something that will yield a proper influence on others today?

Is it something that will keep my thinking sharp and focused on the Kingdom?

Is it something that will enable my faith to grow stronger?

Is it something that I am comfortable doing in the Lord's presence?

Is it something that I am comfortable doing with the Lord present in me?

For more info: <http://www.eciconference.com/page2/page6/page5.html>