

Social Drinking, the Kingdom of God and the Current Culture
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Introduction: We serve a God who provides abundantly for our salvation.

A. These provisions involve instructions that must be understood and obeyed.

(Jude 17-20, 24)

1. God has made man with a free will. We must learn to yield to God.
2. Every great man of faith in the bible had to learn these lessons. God is not partial and men who yield to sin will face consequences.
3. Much of the battle is won when we have a fear of God and a deep respect for His warnings and wisdom. **(Prov 1:7)**

B. There are few problems that have impacted the church as much as social drinking.

1. A large number of Christians have had their families impacted by alcohol.
2. God has repeatedly warned on the dangers. **(Gal 5:19-21)**
3. It is my prayer and intent to let you see what God has plainly taught us.

I. Is social drinking a sin?

A. One of the difficulties we face in applying the Bible to our culture is in our understanding of the wine of Bible times.

1. When we read of wine in the Bible the context must tell us the meaning.
2. In the scriptures there is “strong drink” that is always condemned. Wine can be unfermented. Wine can also be strongly diluted fermented wine.
3. In Bible times the more common wine was cut by a ratio of 3 to 5 parts water to one part wine. This is safer than water alone. **(1 Tim 5:23)**
4. The issue that most fail to understand is that our alcoholic beverages are often much stronger than anything possible in Bible times. There is a huge difference between distillation and fermentation.

B. Consider the blanket condemnation of strong drink. **(Prov 20:1; 31:6)**

1. The strong drink of Bible times is undiluted fermented wine. This would be the equivalent of our modern day beer.
2. In this wisdom literature God warns against playing with fire. If you want to get drunk then go ahead and drink strong drink!

II. Social Drinking has greater influence through social relationships and events

A. Social drinking is a requirement for many kinds of relationships. **(1 Pt 4:3-5)**

1. In High School you could not be close friends with some unless you approved of and partook of their drugs.
2. It was celebrated when one “grew-up” and joined the ranks of those who lived for the “high.”
3. There was open disdain for even those who simply refused to participate.

4. We know there is a God and there is a day of judgement. Who are your friends?
- B. Social drinking is commonly expected in many professions.
 1. Daniel could have lost his life by refusing to compromise. **(Dan 1:8)**
 2. I have sadly watched Christians compromise for the sake of a job.
 3. It is very difficult to be a part of college life without conflict concerning drinking. One college student described the effect on her roommate.

III. Social Drinking and the kingdom of God

- A. What is the most important thing to the child of God? **(Mt 6:33)**
 1. If someone falsely reasoned that some form of social drinking was lawful, I can easily show you that it is not expedient. **(1 Cor 6:9-12)**
 2. I have never known of a Christian who seriously wanted to reach the lost who was a social drinker. **(1 Cor 9:19-23)**
 3. What if you saw an elder drinking at a bar? **(1 Peter 2:12)**
- B. Would you drink if you knew Jesus was coming today?
 1. The same argument can be made for modern drug abuse! Would Jesus smoke pot? **(Rom 13:11-14)**
 2. How much is your soul worth?

IV. Social Drinking and the current culture

- A. Anyone who will open their eyes can get a glimpse of the devastation of alcohol. “America sees alcohol used or advertised on television every 6 seconds. 40% of all hospital admissions is alcohol related. 50% of all traffic fatalities involve alcohol. 20% of all divorces are caused by alcoholism. 33% of all suicides involve alcohol. 64% of all murders in America are committed under the influence of alcohol. 60% of all child abuse involves alcohol. Alcoholics outnumber drug addicts 10 to 1.”
- B. Drinking and drugs have **deception** at their core. **(Prov 23:29-35)**
 1. Many want a brief escape and find themselves snared.
 2. “There is no situation so bad that a few alcoholic drinks won't make it worse.”
- C. We must choose to keep our eyes open and honestly deal with the issues of life.
 1. Depression and addiction are common partners.
 2. The Christian can go to the Lord to face the hurts of life. **(Mt 11:28-30)**
- D. Dishonesty is a way of life for the addict.
 1. There is denial at every step. What Christian would laugh and mock at a lesson like this?
 2. How often have I heard: “I can handle it!”
 3. Lying becomes a way of life. The biggest lie they tell to themselves!
 4. In short they trust no one who will tell them the truth and help. Satan wins when you associate with non-Christians and fear Christians!
- E. Our Lord offers a way out of this dog-eat-dog world. **(Titus 2:11-14)**

Conclusion: You can by God's grace find a new life!