

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In our society many of the old taboos have crumbled.
- B. In the 1800's drinking was considered a serious sin.
- C. Today alcohol is not only accepted but it is promoted and encouraged.
 - 1. 5 ¾ billion Gal. Beer per year.
 - 2. 570 Million Gal. Wine
 - 3. 416 Million Gal. Spirits
 - 4. Total per year- 7,736,000,000.
- D. Alcohol has become so much a part of modern society that most people are shocked when anyone questions its value. 2 of 3 drink.
- E. I am not against alcohol.
 - 1. It has many uses.
 - 2. Used in medicine.
 - 3. I have rubbing alcohol in my house.
 - 4. Used as antiseptic.
 - 5. Methanol, wood alcohol, formaldehyde, plastic.
 - 6. Ethanol
 - 7. Everything from glue to cosmetics to lotions and antifreeze.
- E. What is under consideration today is the Christian and "Social drinking" or drinking alcohol for pleasure.

BODY:

I. ALCOHOL IS A PROBLEM IN TODAY'S WORLD.

- A. Has been around since at least the days of the flood- Gen. 9:20-21 **And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.**
- B. Today it is the No. 3 Health problem in the U.S.
- C. God condemns some things because of what they lead to.
 - 1. Hatred leads to murder.
 - 2. Lust leads to adultery.
- D. The Bible strongly prohibits drunkenness.

F. The Bible by inference prohibits the Christian from Social drinking- Matt. 7:15-20 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor [can] a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them. Fruits of Alcohol.

1. 10 million alcoholics and problem drinkers in the US.
2. 1 out of four killed on highway involve alcohol.
3. 60% of private plane crashes.
4. 41% of violent deaths. 25-30% of violent crime
5. 1 of 9 who take a drink become alcoholics.
6. 4 of 10 hospital admissions are alcohol related.
7. The life span of a drinker is 10-12 years shorter.
8. A major cause of divorce, wife abuse and child molester.
9. 500 million arrest in the U.S. related to alcohol.
10. The cost to the nation per year.
 - a. Some is made from taxes.
 - b. 18.8 billion in medical care. (1992) 1 in 4 hospital beds. (22.5 http://www.marininstitute.org/alcohol_policy/health_care_costs.htm)
 - c. 19.7 billion in criminal cost.
 - d. 24.7 billion in accidents.
 - e. 82 billion in lost productivity.
 - f. Total nearly 166.5 billion in 1995. (175.9 http://www.marininstitute.org/alcohol_policy/health_care_costs.htm)
If you were to count that 1 dollar at a time it would take you 5,294 years or 100 people 1 dollar every second for 24 hrs a day 7 days a week 356 days a year 53 years to count.
11. 294 people a day killed large number 20-40, at a cost of 31.3 billion.
12. 1 every 5 minutes. 12 every hr.

F. 1 Thess. 5:22 "Abstain from every form of evil."

G. Conclusion: Sinful for a Christian to social drink.

II. THE BIBLE AND ALCOHOL.

A. The number one problem is that there are some 13 Hebrew and Greek words for "WINE."

1. Most are used of both fermented and non-fermented grape juice.
2. N.T. word most used is OINOS. Also used both ways.

B. Wine in the Bible times was different from what we know as wine today.

1. Could be juice or alcohol.
2. Grape juice on its own will turn to wine. The alcohol content will not get higher than about 8-10% because the alcohol will kill the air born yeast
3. It still has its food value.
 4. Today's wine is distilled-has much higher content of alcohol (7-24 %) and lacks any food value except the calories.

C. People who drank in the Old Testament.

1. Noah-Gen. 9:20-24-shame. And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness. So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him.
2. Lot- Gen. 19:30-36 Then Lot went up out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountains, and his two daughters were with him; for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar. And he and his two daughters dwelt in a cave. Now the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is no man on the earth to come in to us as is the custom of all the earth. "Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father." So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. It happened on the next day that the firstborn said to the younger, "Indeed I lay with my father last night; let us make him drink wine tonight also, and you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father." Then they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father.

3. Amnon murdered by Absalom while drunk- 2 Sam. 13:28-29. Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, "Watch now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, `Strike Amnon!' then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and valiant." So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and each one got on his mule and fled.

4. Nabal, Uriah, etc..

D. A look at Prov. 23:29-35. Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it swirls around smoothly; At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things. Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying: "They have struck me, but I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?"

E. Isa. 28:7-8. But they also have erred through wine, And through intoxicating drink are out of the way; The priest and the prophet have erred through intoxicating drink, They are swallowed up by wine, They are out of the way through intoxicating drink; They err in vision, they stumble in judgment. For all tables are full of vomit and filth; No place is clean.

F. Isa. 19:14b "as a drunken man staggers in his vomit."

G. Alcohol leads to poverty:

1. Prov. 21:17. He who loves pleasure will be a poor man; He who loves wine and oil will not be rich.

2. Prov. 23:21 For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe a man with rags.

H. The New Testament

1. Lk. 21:34-35 But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

2. Rom. 13:13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

3. May cause others to stumble Rom. 14:21 1 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.

4. Filled not with wine but with the spirit Eph. 5:15-21 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.

5. A work of the flesh Gal. 5:19-26 v. 21 drunkenness

6. Can not drink and be an elder- 1 Tim. 3:2-3 3 “not given to wine”

III. OFT ASKED QUESTIONS:

A. Jesus turned water to alcohol, therefore it is OK for us to social drink- Jn. 2:1-10 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw [some] out now, and take [it] to the master of the feast." And they took [it]. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the [guests] have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

1. These six water pots were about 120- 180 gallons of wine.
2. Would Jesus, who condemns drunkards, make this much alcohol to cause people to stumble?

B. Paul told Timothy to drink wine- 1 Tim. 5:23 No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.

1. Timothy was a 'teetotaler' it took a direct command from an apostle to get him to drink.
2. Paul said use a little wine for thy stomach's sake.
 - a. Use not indulge or enjoy.
 - b. Little not a lot.
 - c. Stomach's sake-medicinal not social.

3. Can not prove from this passage that it was alcohol.

C. They had no way of keeping grape juice from turning to wine.

1. They would place it in jars and bury it in the earth. Stopping all air from getting to it.
2. By boiling down the juice making a syrup which will not ferment.
3. If the juice was filtered and deprived of its glutton.

D. Is alcoholism a disease? IF IT IS...

1. It is the only disease contracted by an act of the will.
2. It is the only disease that requires a license to propagate.
3. It is the only disease that is bottled and sold.
4. It is the only disease that produces a revenue for the government.
5. It is the only disease that promotes crime.
6. Only disease that is habit-forming.
7. Only disease that is spread by advertising.
8. It is the only disease that bars the patient from heaven.

CONCLUSION:

- A. It is wrong for a Christian to social drink.
- B. Alcohol is useful if used in the right way.
- C. No one ever became an alcoholic by not drinking.
- D. Can not be the light of the world if you are a drunk.