



I'm Just Being "Sociable"

Dos the Bible say that social drinking is OK? *"We have spent enough timein drunkenness,....."*

....drinking parties... In regard to these, they think it strange that you don't run with them in their drunkenness, speaking evil of you. They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead". (1Pe 4:3-5)

Almost everyone does it. *"and do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God". (Rom 12:2)*

Alcohol is very anti-social. Is it sociable to bully someone in to drinking alcohol so that they become drunk and likely to be in trouble or cause trouble, especially in his own family?

But...

Didn't Jesus turn water into wine?

Jesus and His disciples were invited to a wedding. (John 2: 1-11) During this wedding, the grape juice ran out, so Jesus changed about 600 litres (130 gallons) of water into fresh grape juice.

In the Greek text, these verses use the word (οἶνος), meaning either alcohol or fresh grape juice. The Bible says *"let us walk properly, as in the day, not in...drunkenness...But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfil it's lusts". Rom 13: 13-14.* Surely Jesus



didn't make provision for the flesh, to fulfil it's lusts. Surely what He made was grape juice.

Wasn't wine used at the Lord's supper?



Jesus ate the Passover feast with His disciples on the night before He was crucified (Matthew 26: 20-29). By His death Jesus fulfilled the Passover Feast of Exodus 12: 3-20. Replacing the Passover, Jesus told us to Keep the Lord's Supper to remember His death and resurrection, for our sins.

Both the Passover and the Lord's Supper use bread, symbolising Christ's body broken on the cross. Leaven (yeast), makes bread rise, and was not used for the feasts since it often is a symbol of corruption.

Christ's death was foreshadowed by the death of a spotless lamb. (1 Peter 1: 18-19) However, Jesus used grape juice to symbolise the blood of His new contract with us. Because Jesus had no sin (Hebrews 4: 14-15), non-alcoholic (uncorrupted) grape juice symbolises His blood. Leaven is used to make grape juice ferment (become alcoholic wine). No leaven was in the house during the Passover week (Exodus 12: 15). Thus, Jesus didn't use alcoholic wine for the Lord's Supper.



Beside, Jesus called the juice "the fruit of the vine". Josephus (a Jewish historian of the first century AD) used the same phrase referring to grapes freshly squeezed into a cup. To assume that "fruit of the vine" refers to alcohol is contrary to early usage of the phrase.

It may be true that the Passover was six months after the grape harvest. However, it was common at that time to preserve grape juice from fermenting by various methods such as boiling, storing in airtight wineskins, adding preservatives like sulphur, and filtering any yeast that would cause any fermentation. Similar methods are used today in preserving milk by UHT treatment (ultra-high temperature). Fruit juice and other products are kept in sealed containers for long periods of time. Preservatives are in wide use also.



Alcohol was not used at the Lord's Supper; therefore these verses can't be used to justify drinking alcohol.

Didn't Paul advise using a "Little wine...."

Paul wrote to Timothy. "...use a little wine for your stomachs sake and your frequent infirmities". (1 Timothy 5: 23)

Again, the word for wine is (οἶνος), thus there is no direct indication of its alcoholic content. However, a Greek writer, Athenaeus (AD 280), expressed words similar to Paul's "Take glucose...being very good for the stomach." The health benefits of non-alcoholic grape juice, rich with glucose, are well known today.



Paul never recommended alcohol. To the contrary, an "...overseer must be...not a drinker..." (1 Timothy 3: 2-3, A Literal Translation of the Bible.

I Only Had One Drink...

Alcohol kills the brain cells. The body can't replace dead cells. Do you want a moderately dead brain?

Dr. Lennane, director of the drug and alcohol services at Rozelle Hospital, Sydney says it is not only heavy drinkers who are being affected but social drinkers as well.

"...Drunkenness...and the like...those who practise such things will not inherit the kingdom of God... and those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires". (Galatians 5: 21-24)

"Do you know you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him..." (1 Corinthians 3: 16-17). This would apply to everything that defiles, alcohol, smoking, and other drugs.

Do Not Look!

Does the Bible teach abstinence or "moderation?"

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise". (Pro 20:1)

"Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and



stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again". (Pro 23:29-35)

God is not a killjoy. He is warning us for our own sakes!

Read These Verses:

Gen 9:20-27; 19:30-36; Lev 10:8-11; Num 6: 2-4; Deut 32: 32-33; Judg 13:2-14; 1 Sam 1:11; Prov 23: 20-21; 31:4-7; Is 5:11-12,22; 28:7-8; 56:10-12; 65:8; Jer 35; Ezek 44:21 Dan 1:8-17; 5; Hos 4:11, 18; Hab 2:5; Luk 1:13-15; 11:4; 12:45-47; 1 Cor 6:9-11; 2 Cor 7:1; Tit 1:7.



Unless otherwise stated all Bible quotations are from the New King James or King James versions.

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Compiled by Samuel Enderby

Alcohol

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Woe to him who gives his neighbour strong drink," Hab 2:15

".... drunkenness, ..., and things like these; ... that the ones practicing such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the ones belonging to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts". Gal 5:21-24

