
ALCOHOL: SHOULD A CHRISTIAN DRINK?

Proverbs 20:1

INTRODUCTION

When it comes to the use of alcohol, American Culture has made massive inroads into the lives and homes of those who self-identify as Christians. For some strange reason, it appears to be the “cool” thing to consume what for centuries has been considered “off limits” for God’s people. But, should a born-again Christian drink? It really is not a matter of taste, preference, or opinion. The answer to the question must be found in Scripture!

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- A. Fermented grain, fruit juice, and honey have been used to make _____ for thousands of years.
- The Babylonians worshiped a _____ goddess as early as 2700 B.C.
- B. It is believed that distilled hard liquors, a strong liquor from fermented _____ wine, originated among the Chinese _____ years before Christ.
- C. The first _____ of the actual purposeful production of _____ occurred in the area of Armenia around the year 4100 B.C.
- Armenia, also called Ararat, is where Noah’s _____ rested in the country’s mountainous region – Genesis 8:4
- D. The earliest wine made in what is now the _____ was produced between 1562 and 1564 by French Huguenot settlers at a settlement near Jacksonville, Florida. American wine has been produced for _____ 400 years!
- E. Today, wine production is undertaken in _____ fifty states, with California producing 89 percent of all US wine. The United States is the _____ - largest wine producing country in the world, after Italy, Spain, and France!

II. BURNING ISSUES

- A. Is consumption of alcohol _____ in Scripture?
1. The word alcohol is _____ used in God’s Word!

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2. The primary English word speaking of an intoxicating beverage, as used in the Bible, is the word _____.
- B. Is the Biblical usage of the word wine _____ in reference to a fermented, intoxicating beverage?
1. _____! In the _____ Testament two _____ words are both translated "wine."
 - a. One word, "tirosh," is _____ used as fermented or intoxicating drink. It refers to the fresh _____ of the grape – Psalm 4:7
 - b. A second word, "yayin," refers to _____ or decayed juice – Genesis 9:21
 2. In the New Testament one _____ Greek word, "oinos," is translated "wine" and is used for _____ fresh juice, and fermented wine – John 2:3
 - a. A parallel usage in modern English would be our use of the word "_____ " to refer to _____ cider or to _____ cider, as the context may indicate.
 - b. In establishing the Lord's supper, Jesus was careful to use the phrase "_____ of the _____," instead of "wine," lest He be misunderstood – Luke 22:17-20
 - Nowhere does the Bible _____ the drinking of intoxicating beverages!
- C. Isn't alcoholism a _____?
1. The Biblical term, drunkenness, is in our _____ world referred to as alcoholism. God's Word strongly _____ against it – Proverbs 20:1; Romans 14:21; Ephesians 5:18
 2. If _____ alcohol is a disease, it is the _____ disease:
 - That is contracted by an _____ of the will!
 - That requires a _____ to propagate!
 - That is _____ in a can or bottle!
 - That is _____-forming!
 - That is permitted to be _____
- D. Didn't Jesus _____ water into intoxicating, fermented _____ at a wedding in Cana (John 2)?

1. _____!
2. With all that the _____ of _____ says about fermented drinks, it is hard to imagine Jesus would _____ over 100 gallons of _____ wine at an occasion He endorsed by His presence!
 - As God, Jesus does not _____ people to _____ – James 1:13-16

III. BIBLICAL INSIGHT

- A. Biblical passages which seem to advocate for the _____ or ingestion of wine generally _____ medicinal purposes:
 1. To sterilize _____ – Luke 10:34
 2. To help purify _____ and render it drinkable – I Timothy 5:23
- B. Scripture _____ us regarding the _____ of drinking and drunkenness:
 1. It is associated with heartache and _____ – Proverbs 23:29-32
 2. It can lead to _____ – Proverbs 21:17; 23:21
 3. It can create a _____ – Proverbs 20:1
 4. It can _____ others – I Corinthians 8:9;12
 - A mature, _____ Christian does not focus on their “_____,” but rather on their responsibilities!
 5. It can affect your _____ – Proverbs 31:4.5
- C. Six _____ why we shouldn’t drink alcohol:
 1. We can’t be sober-minded if we’re not _____!
 2. What we do in moderation, our _____ will most likely do in excess!
 3. To avoid all appearances of _____!
 4. When the _____ sees Christians drinking, it sends the message that _____ and God’s Word are _____ enough!
 5. If we _____ start drinking, we will never have to _____!

6. Nowhere does the Bible _____ the drinking of wine or _____ intoxicating beverages!

Alcohol is a cancer in human society eating out its vitals and threatening its destruction. It has many defenders, but no defense.

--Abraham Lincoln

Alcohol is more destructive than war, pestilence, and famine combined.

--William Gladstone