

WHAT ABOUT WINE?

Ephesians 5:18-21

When it comes to the use of alcohol, what does God expect from the Christian?

I. TWO COMMANDS - Ephesians 5:18-21

A. COMMAND ONE (18a)

- "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation."

1. Conclusion: To be drunk is sin
2. Consequences: Drunkenness leads to recklessness
3. Condition: Some Christians can and do get drunk – See I Cor. 11:20-22
4. Consideration
 - a. A Christian who drinks but does not get drunk (the drinker), and a Christian who does not drink alcohol at all (the abstainer) have both obeyed this command; neither are drunk.
 - b. This is where Christians who allow for drinking (drinkers) usually want to stop the discussion.
 - They feel they have proved their point (that drinking is allowed) because they do not get drunk.

B. CONTRAST: "But ..."

1. The Word: "But" is an adversive particle which shows a strong contrast
 - This form is most often used to link a negative command with a positive one
2. Our Ways: We must not stop here and walk away with an assurance that we are pleasing God simply because we do not get drunk.
3. A Warning: To obey only half of two connected commands is incomplete obedience.
 - See Matt. 5:43-48 and I Sam. 15:13-16, 20-23

C. COMMAND TWO (18b-21)

- "Be filled with the Spirit ..."

1. The Imperative
 - Be completely filled with the Holy Spirit
2. The Indications (19-21)
 - a. Worshipfulness (19-20)
 - b. Selflessness (21)
3. Some Questions
 - a. Do drinking and abstaining Christians both fulfill this command for Spirit-filling?
 - b. Are both types of Christians worshipful?
 - c. Are both types of Christians selfless?
4. A Suggestion
 - The drinking Christian may be disobeying the Spirit-filled command especially in the matter of demonstrating selflessness.
5. An Objection: Why shouldn't the abstainer yield to the drinker?
6. Biblical Specifications - See Romans 14 and I Cor. 8 & 10

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II. SELFLESSNESS CONSIDERATIONS

- Romans 14 with I Corinthians 8 and 10

A. NO TRIPPING ALLOWED - Romans 14:15-21

- Do not eat meat or drink wine or anything which causes your brother to stumble (21)

B. NO WOUNDING PERMITTED - I Corinthians 8:9-13

- Resolve to give up your liberty so as to keep your brother from stumbling (13)

C. NO SELFISHNESS TOLERATED - I Corinthians 10:23-24

- See also I Cor. 6:12 and Gal. 5:13

III. POSSIBLE OBJECTIONS

A. JESUS MADE WINE - John 2:1-11

- What Jesus made was really good grape juice (v.10)

B. ALCOHOL AND GLUTTONY ISSUES ARE THE SAME - Proverbs 23:19-35

- Unlike drinking, gluttony does not affect the mind and has no nearly immediate affect on one's demeanor.

C. THE USE OF ALCOHOL CAN AID EVANGELISM (Pub Evangelism)

- The Reality is that sinners generally respect those who have the discipline to deny themselves

D. THE ABSTAINER IS BEING LEGALISTIC

- In fact, he could be truly convinced that drinking alcohol is sinful and selfish and is therefore not willing to jeopardize his fellowship with God and others by using alcohol.

CONCLUSION:

Just because a Christian is not drunk does not mean that he or she is Spirit filled.

- A non drunk Christian can still be disobedient

Are you ever drunk?

- Do you ever drink?

Are you Spirit-filled?

- Are you worshipful and selfless?

- Are you committed to your sacred duty toward God and the godly?

As believers we should not be drunk and should be Spirit filled, worshipful and selfless followers of Jesus Christ.

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