

THE CHRISTIAN & ALCOHOL

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Question:

Does God approve of
Christians drinking alcohol
for recreational or social
purposes?

Authority

- Mt 28:18
- Col 3:17
- Rom 15:4

Alcohol – Facts & Statistics

- Ethyl alcohol is a central nervous system depressant and an anesthetic
- A drug
- Known human carcinogen

Alcohol – Facts & Statistics

- From the CDC:
 - Alcohol consumption is associated with a variety of short- and long-term health risks, including motor vehicle crashes, violence, sexual risk behaviors, high blood pressure, and various cancers (e.g., breast cancer).¹
 - The risk of these harms increases with the amount of alcohol you drink. For some conditions, like some cancers, the risk increases even at very low levels of alcohol consumption (less than 1 drink).^{2,3}
 - For some conditions, such as certain types of cancer (e.g., breast cancer) and liver disease, there is no known safe level of alcohol consumption.^{2,3}

Alcohol – Facts & Statistics

- From Health Promotion Agency of New Zealand:
 - “once swallowed, alcohol is rapidly absorbed into the blood and moves to all parts of the body, including to an unborn baby. Alcohol in the blood quickly moves to the brain. Effects can be felt within five to ten minutes after drinking”

Alcohol – Facts & Statistics

- From Clinlab website:

Alcohol (Ethanol, Ethyl Alcohol)

Ethyl alcohol is a central nervous system depressant and an anesthetic. Alcohol ingestion may cause loss of judgment, incoordination, and disorientation. Higher doses may induce stupor possibly followed by coma and death.

Blood Alcohol Concentration	Clinical Signs & Symptoms
10 – 50 mg/dL	Mild euphoria, decreased inhibitions, diminished attention & judgement
0.01 – 0.05 g/dL	

Alcohol – Facts & Statistics

- From National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism:
 - An estimated 88,000 people die from alcohol-related causes annually, making alcohol the third leading cause of death in the United States.
 - Globally, in 2012, 3.3 million deaths, or 5.9% of all global deaths, were attributable to alcohol consumption.
 - And more than 10% of all US children live with a parent with alcohol problems, according to a 2012 study.

Wine in the Bible

- Old Testament words translated wine
 - Tirosh
 - Yayin
 - Chemer
 - ...and others, less common
 - Shekar – translated strong drink and similar drink
- Context

Wine in the Bible

- New Testament words translated wine
 - Oinos
 - Gleukos
- Either may be fermented or non-fermented
- Oinos relates to the Hebrew words tirosh and yayin
- Context

Old Testament

- Wine = grape juice; juice just pressed
 - Isa 65:8
 - Num 6:3....Jud 13:7
 - Micah 6:15
 - Isa 16:10
 - Jer 48:33

Old Testament

- Wine = intoxicating
 - Gen 9:21-24
 - Gen 19:32-33
 - 2 Sam 11:13
 -and others

Bible Wine

- Fermented wine not inherent in the word “Wine” in Old Testament
- Fermented
 - Maximum 12-14%
 - Palestine 8%
 - Dilution
 - Vs. Pagan practice
- Authority

Bible Wine

- Preservation
 - Filtration
 - Boiling
 - Other
- They could preserve it

Contrasting Descriptions

- Wine & Strong Drink
 - Lev 10:9-10
 - Prov 20:1; 23:29-35; 31:4-7
 - Isa 28:7
 - Hos 4:11
 - Hab 2:5, 15
 - Eph 5:18

The wine in these Scriptures is associated with:

- Irreverence and profaning religion
- Arousal of unrighteous conduct
 - Leading astray
 - Woe
- Perversion of judgment
- Enslaving of the heart
 - Transgression
 - Drunkenness

Contrasting Descriptions

- A wine like this:
 - Gen 27:28
 - Num 18:12
 - Deut 7:13; 11:14
 - Ps 104:14-15
 - Eccl 9:7

The wine in these Scriptures is associated with:

- Blessing from God
- The first-fruits offered to the Lord
 - Gladness of heart

Wine

- “Wine” in the Bible does not imply intoxicating drink
- Old Testament Law not our authority today
- Look to gospel of Christ for His authority
 - Col 3:17
- But Proverbs – God’s wisdom for us too

Wisdom

- Instruction
- Knowledge
- Understanding
- Discretion
- Prudence

Folly

- Simple (naïve)
- Scoffer (scorner)
- Froward

Proverbs

- Proverbs 20:1
 - Mocker, Brawler
- Proverbs 23:29-35
 - DO NOT
 - Proverbs 5:7-14
- Proverbs 30:1-5
 - Law, Justice

Colossians 3:17

“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

