

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

- **PROPOSITION: ALL CONSCIENTIOUS CHRISTIANS SHOULD STAY FAR AWAY FROM ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.**
- **WHAT FOLLOWS IS A SIMPLE, NON-TECHNICAL, BIBLE-BASED APPROACH TO THIS SUBJECT.**
- **THE HOPE AND PRAYER IS THAT WE CAN USE THIS TO HELP OUR CHILDREN AND OTHERS UNDERSTAND GOD'S WILL ABOUT THE TOPIC OF STRONG DRINK.**

I. THE WORD "WINE" IN THE BIBLE IS GENERIC, FLEXIBLE.

A. THE WORD CAN REFER TO FRESH GRAPE JUICE, ISAIAH 16:10; ISAIAH 65:8 – "TREADING OUT THE WINE IN THE PRESSES (SQUEEZING THE GRAPE...)" & "NEW WINE IN THE CLUSTER" – A CLUSTER OF A GROUP OF SIMILAR THINGS; HERE, GRAPES; ALSO SEE PSALM 104:15; AND "FRUIT OF THE VINE" MT.26:26-29.

B. THE WORD IS ALSO USED IN THE BIBLE TO REFER TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE, FERMENTED WINE, WHEN IT HAS BECOME A TOXICANT. PROV.20:1; I COR.6:19-21; GAL.5:22,23, ETC., ETC.

II. THE MANY WARNINGS AGAINST THE RECREATIONAL USE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE.

A. PROV.20:1 – WINE IS A MOCKER, DECEIVER – WE STAY FROM PEOPLE WHO DECEIVE...SO STAY AWAY FROM STRONG DRINK. WINE IS RAGING OR A BRAWLER, THAT IS, CAN CREATE MORE OF TENDENCY TOWARD UNCONTROLLED, VIOLENT BEHAVIOR. DABBLING IN WINE IS NOT WISE.

B. PROVERBS 23:31 – DO NOT LOOK UPON THE WINE WHEN IT IS RED...IF SUCH RESTRICTION IS COMMANDED UNDER THE O.T. SYSTEM, THEN WHAT NOW, UNDER NEW TESTAMENT LAW?

GREATER MORAL RESPONSIBILITY IS EXPECTED UNDER THE N.T. SYSTEM, ACTS 17:29; LUKE 12:48.

- C. PROVERBS 31:2-7 – MOM’S INSTRUCTION TO KINGS. “IT IS NOT FOR KINGS TO DRINK STRONG DRINK.” REMEMBER WHEN A KING AND HIS ADVISORS BECAME “MERRY WITH WINE,” ESTHER 1:10FF.**
- D. HABAKKUK 2:5 – WINE IS PERSONIFIED AS A TRAITOR, A GREEDY AND ARROGANT PERSON, WHO, LIKE DEATH, NEVER IS SATISFIED WITH ENOUGH VICTIMS.**
- E. HABAKKUK 2:15 – WOE UNTO HIM WHO GIVES HIS NEIGHBOR DRINK. IF THERE IS A “WOE” THEN WHATEVER FOLLOWS INVOLVES SIN. DID JESUS EVER SIN. NO WAY, I PETER 2:22; I PETER 1:19. IF HE HAD SINNED, HE WOULD NOT BE OUR SAVIOR. IN JOHN 2, AT THE WEDDING FEAST, JESUS TURNED WATER INTO WINE. SINCE JESUS LIVED UNDER THE OLD LAW AND FULFILLED BOTH IT AND THE PROPHETS (MATT.5:17; LUKE 24:44), THEN THE WINE HE CREATED IN JOHN 2 WOULD BE FRESH GRAPE JUICE. ACCORDING TO JOHN 2:6,7, WATER WAS Poured INTO 6 JARS, EACH CONTAINING 20 TO 30 GALLONS A PIECE. WITH ALL THE WARNINGS ABOUT ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE, THERE IS NO WAY JESUS CREATED 120-130 GALLONS OF INTOXICATING DRINK FOR A WEDDING FEAST.**

III. NEW TESTAMENT COMMANDS/PRINCIPLES.

- A. BEING SOBERMINDED, TITUS 2:2; I TIM.3:1-3.**
 - 1. SOBERMINDED MEANS TO BE FREE FROM ANYTHING INTOXICATING, WHETHER ANGER, STRONG DRINK, ETC.**
 - 2. WE ARE TO BE SOBERMINDED ALL THE TIME.**
- B. BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT, EPHESIANS 5:17,18.**
 - 1. INSTEAD BEING DRUNK WITH WINE, BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT, WHICH INCLUDES BEING FILLED WITH GOD’S**

WORD, EPH.6:17, WORSHIPPING IN TRUTH, EPH.5:19, AND LIVING THE SUBMISSIVE LIFE, EPH.5:20,21.

- 2. DABBLING IN STRONG DRINK WOULD NOT BE WISE, EPH.5:15 AND REVEALS A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WILL, EPH.5:17. ALCOHOL IS ONE OF THOSE "FIERY DARTS" WHICH MUST BE QUENCHED, EPH.5:15,16.**

C. GUARDING ONE'S INFLUENCE, I TIMOTHY 4:12; I TIMOTHY 5:22,23.

- 1. IF IT WERE COMMON FOR CHRISTIANS TO DRINK TOXIC BEVERAGES, THEN PAUL'S INSTRUCTION TO TIMOTHY TO TAKE A LITTLE WINE WITH HIS WATER FOR STOMACH AILMENTS WOULD NOT BE NEEDED.**
- 2. TRUTH IS, TIMOTHY WAS IN THE HABIT OF GUARDING HIS INFLUENCE AND HAD TO BE ADVISED BY HIS MENTOR TO USE THE WINE.**
- 3. USING SOMETHING FOR A MEDICAL REMEDY IS NOT LICENSE TO USE IT SOCIALLY....**

D. RESISTING ADDICTION, TITUS 2:3, "NOT ADDICTED TO MUCH WINE."

- 1. THIS IS A SIMPLE, STRAIGHTFORWARD INSTRUCTION NOT TO BE ADDICTED TO A TOXIC SUBSTANCE. INSTRUCTING SOMEONE NOT TO BE ADDICTED TO DRUGS IS NOT A LICENSE TO DABBLE IN A FEW DRUGS.**

E. SERVING AS PRIESTS, LEVITICUS 10:9; REV.1:6; I PETER 2:5,9,10.

- 1. UNDER THE LAW OF MOSES, AARON AND HIS SONS WERE NOT TO BE DRINKING WINE OR STRONG DRINK, LEV.10:9.**
- 2. UNDER THE NEW COVENANT, THE NEW TESTAMENT, CHRISTIANS ARE PRIESTS, REV.1:6.**
- 3. AS MENTIONED BEFORE, THERE IS GREATER MORAL RESPONSIBILITY IN LIVING UNDER THE NEW TESTAMENT SYSTEM, ACTS 17:29; LUKE 12:48.**