

20. Alcohol

Principle: Alcohol is another part of God's creation that can be used for good or evil.

Key Scripture:

Ephesian 5:18 'Do not **get drunk** on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Proverbs 23:32 Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly! In the end it bites like a **snake** and poisons like a viper.

1 Timothy 5:23 Stop drinking only water, and use a **little wine** because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.

Matthew 11:18-19 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came **eating and drinking**, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners." ' But wisdom is proved right by her actions."

1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the **glory of God**.

Comment on Scripture

Scripture is clear that we are not to get drunk. It also is clear that Christ, unlike John the Baptist, drank alcohol. Paul suggests to Timothy that he take a little wine for its health benefits. Our choice is to be based on whether or not it glorifies God.

Application in daily life??

- ♦ I believe God leaves us free to choose whether or not to drink alcohol. Like many other things in life that have the potential of leading people into temptation (eg advertising – leading to coveting, sexuality, money, and power), the choice is ours as to how we handle it.
- ♦ Abstaining from drinking alcohol is a common choice amongst Christians. It reduces the opportunity of falling into this temptation and does not encourage others to drink if they do not want to.
- ♦ Similarly, I believe that drinking alcohol is an option as part of a balanced Christian life if those who do, do it in a way that glorifies God.
- ♦ Whether we do or don't drink alcohol we are not to judge the choice of others regarding the issue, other than to be clear that getting drunk is not acceptable.

Our example?? Does our attitude to drinking alcohol and our behaviour around it glorify God?