

SOCIAL DRINKING IN THE LIGHT OF THE SCRIPTURES

Text: 1 Peter 4:2-3

INTRO: There are three phrases in our text that we want to direct out attention to.

- A. Drunkenness (excess of wine, KJV)
Gr., OINOPHLUGIA, overflow of wine.
Modern term: sot drunk
- B. Revelry (revellings, KJV)
Gr., KOMOS, a carousal, concomitant & consequence of drunkenness.
Modern terms: feeling good, flying high, etc.
- C. Drinking parties (banquetings, KJV)
Gr., POTOS, drinking together

Now, let us examine the arguments usually made to defend social drinking in the light of the Scriptures.

I. YOU PREACHERS DON'T SEEM TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JUST DRINKING AND DRUNKENNESS.

Answer: I recognize the difference between the two, so does the word of God, & it says the Christian should refrain from both. I know the difference between adultery and murder, but they are both wrong.

II. PAUL TOLD TIMOTHY TO DRINK A LITTLE WINE, 1 Timothy 5:23.

- A. Timothy was instructed to USE a little wine as a medicine.
- B. This has absolutely nothing to do with social drinking.

C. It may, however, be significant that Timothy would not even use it for medicine without Divine authority.

III. TITUS 2:3 IMPLIES THAT THE CHRISTIAN MAY DRINK WINE OR STRONG DRINK IN MODERATION.

A. The Bible recognizes the use of wine in two amounts:

1. A little wine as a medicine is approved, 1 Tim 5:23
2. Much wine is always forbidden.
3. Therefore such verses as Titus 2:3 do not imply that Christians should drink beverage alcohol.

IV. JESUS TURNED WATER INTO WINE, THUS ENDORSED ITS USE, John 2:1-10.

A. Scholars recognize that the word wine in the Bible is sometimes used to mean fresh, unfermented grape juice. Similar to our word cider.

B. Whether the wine in John 2:1-10 was fermented must be decided on the basis of the context.

1. The context shows the guests had already been provided with "wine" and had run out.
2. If they had already been drinking alcoholic wine, some of them would most likely already be in a state of revelry. If Jesus made more alcoholic beverage, He was providing for them to enter into the state of sot drunkenness. Who can receive it

3. One more thing should be considered. Christ was without sin, 1 Pet. 2:22. Take note of this in the light of Prov. 23:31-32 and Hab. 2:15. If He was not to even look upon the wine in its alcoholic state, would He make it for others and encourage their use of it as a beverage?

V. THERE WAS NO WAY TO KEEP GRAPE JUICE FROM FERMENTING IN BIBLE TIMES, SO THAT MOST OF THE TIME WINE IS MENTIONED, IT MUST OF NECESSITY BE FERMENTED.

This statement simply is not true. It is based on 21st century conceit. The truth is that the ancients knew several ways of preserving fruits & fruit juices in a natural or near natural state long before the time of Christ. Canning, refrigeration, condensing, sulfuring, etc.

VI. THERE ARE MANY FOREIGN PLACES WHERE A TRAVELER CANNOT SAFELY DRINK THE WATER AND ALCOHOLIC DRINKS ARE THE ONLY SAFE THINGS TO DRINK.

A. This argument is usually made within 5 blocks of a store sells all sorts of soft drinks & would certainly be of no comfort to those who do not travel to foreign countries.

B. If a Christian were going to a place where he suspected the water would not be drinkable, he could very easily go with chemicals or equipment to purify the water.

C. If he should unexpectedly find himself where the water is unfit, in the vast majority of cases milk or some sort of unfermented fruit juices would be available.

D. Even if alcoholic beverage could be justified in such cases, it would be of no comfort in ordinary circumstances.

VII. DRINKING HELPS ONE TO ESCAPE FROM REALITY.

A. This is the primary thing wrong with it. Christians are to learn to face the problems of life, & with God's help, to solve them, Phil. 4:11.

B. We should rather cast our cares upon the Lord, for He cares for us, 1 Peter 5:7.

CONCLUSION: Peter warns us in 1 Peter 2:11 to abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.

A. Drinking alcoholic beverage is a fleshly lust, 1 Pet 4:2-3; Gal 5:21

B. It wars against the soul, Luke 21:34.

C. Therefore the Christian should refrain from its use.

Springhill, LA, July 1, 1973

Taylor, TX, August 12, 1973 (meeting)

La Porte, TX, October 10, 1976

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, December 18, 1994