

Intoxication/Social Drinking



Is social drinking acceptable?

Intoxication/Social Drinking

- The word **wine** in the **Hebrew** Old Testament is *yayin* –
- The **Greek** word for **wine** is *oinas*
- **Both** the Hebrew and Greek are Generic –
- Can **refer** to **either fermented** or **unfermented** juice of the grape.
- The “context” determines which one...

MUCH OF THE TIME THE “CONTEXT” IS NEUTRAL

Intoxication/Social Drinking

- ²¹ but examine [test] [prove] everything; hold firmly to that which is good, ²² abstain from every form of evil. - NASB – 1 Thessalonians 5.21-22

THE ONLY STANDARD TO USE FOR THE TESTING IS THE SCRIPTURES

Mental Effects of Wine

- ⁸ Finally, brothers *and sisters*, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, **whatever is commendable**, if there is **any excellence** and if **anything worthy of praise**, think about these things. – Philippians 4.8

“WORTHY OF PRAISE” - commendable and warrants thanksgiving

Physical Effects of Wine

- Vomit – Isaiah 19.14
- Staggering – Isaiah 19.14; 28.7; Psalm 107.27
- Woe – Proverbs 23.29-32
- Filthiness – Isaiah 27.8
- Sorrow – Proverbs 23.29-32
- Contentions – Proverbs 23.29
- Loss of control – Genesis 19.32-36

Physical Effects of Wine

- Babblings – Proverbs 23.29
- Indecency – Genesis 9.21ff
- Wounds w/o cause – Proverbs 23.29
- Redness of the eyes – Proverbs 23.29-30
- Allied with gambling – licentiousness – Joel 3.13
- Poverty – Proverbs 21.17; 23.21

Mental Effects of Wine

- Invigorates (mostly in a negative way) – Genesis 43.34
- Loss of understanding – balance – wise judgment – Isaiah 28.7; Hosea 4.11
- Maladministration of justice – Proverbs 31.5; Isaiah 5.23
- Provokes anger – contentions – brawling – Proverbs 20.1; 23;29, 30-35

Mental Effects of Wine

- **Is a mocker** (meaning) it deceives a man in causing him to think he is something that he isn't; it not only overcomes him before he's aware; wine also promises him a pleasure which it does not give; on the contrary, excessive drinking gives him pain, and sorrow - in doing so wine mocks him.
- **Proverbs 20.1; 23.30-35**

Intoxication/Social Drinking

- **What about social drinking?**
- ³¹ Do not look at wine when it is **red**,
When it **sparkles in the cup**,
When it goes down smoothly;
- Proverbs 23.31

“RED” – “SPARKLES IN THE CUP” – THINGS ASSOCIATED WITH FERMENTATION

Intoxication/Social Drinking

- But – what’s interesting word is found in 1 Thessalonians 5.7 –
- ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk, get drunk at night. (1 Thessalonians 5.7).
- Drunk in this place comes from methusko (meaning) “to make drunk, or to grow drunk.”
- So, it’s the process of getting drunk.
- In one very real sense – once you begin the process – you are already there.

Mental Effects of Wine

- “Those who love pleasure become poor; those who love wine and luxury will never be rich,” Proverbs 21:17 (NLT).
- Use leads to misuse which will lead one to **abandon** the Lord to **worship idols** (Hosea 2:8; 7:14; Daniel 5:4).

What is “new wine?”

- **Isaiah 65:8...Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, [meaning the grape itself]**
- **New wine** is simply grape juice or fruit juice straight from the grape cluster on the vine. A cluster of grapes is **non-fermented fruit** and **their juices** are considered as “**new wine**” in Bible language.
- New wine is not intoxicating. New wine will not alter the sober mind.

Intoxication/Social Drinking

- ²³ Do not go on drinking **only water** - but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments. – 1 Timothy 5.23 – NASB
- Obvious in the text is - Timothy was suffering from a stomach ailment, although the nature of the ailment is not known.
- What cannot be proven by the context is whether the wine was or wasn't fermented.

Intoxication/Social Drinking

- 1 Timothy 3.2
- ² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, **sober-minded**, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; ³ **not given to wine**, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;

OPPOSITE THOUGHTS – “SOBER-MINDED” – DRINKING AN INTOXICATING DRINK

Intoxication/Social Drinking

- 1 Timothy 3.2
- **Sober-minded** – “to be of sound mind” (Thayer)
- Strong’s Greek Dictionary – “self-controlled” (moderate as to opinions and or passions).
- His words and actions must evidence wisdom at all times.
- Intoxication on any level will not allow this.

Intoxication/Social Drinking

- 1 Timothy 3.3
- ³ Not given to wine...”
- A prohibition against any association with wine.
- It's interesting that we wouldn't want to ride in a car with him driving after a few social drinks – but we are inclined allow him instruct us in the ways of the Lord.

Intoxication/Social Drinking

- 1 Timothy 3.3
- From the Greek – lit., not at all; by, near, at, next to.
- From this viewpoint even a moderate use of intoxicating wine must be ruled out
- When (how many drinks?) does one become under the influence of intoxicating drinks?

Intoxication/Social Drinking

- ⁸ Deacons likewise *must be* men of dignity, not insincere, not prone to *drink much* wine, not greedy for money - 1 Timothy 3.8 –
- “Wine was always diluted, and to drink and to drink it undiluted was frowned upon.” – Plato –

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Georgia DUI Defined

Georgia's **driving under the influence** (DUI) laws make it illegal for drivers of all ages to operate motor vehicles if they have **blood alcohol concentration** (BAC) percentages of:

0.08% or higher, if they're 21 years old or older operating regular passenger vehicles.

0.04% or higher, if they're operating commercial vehicles.

0.02% or higher, if they're younger than 21 years old.

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Reaching .08 on the Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) Scale depends on many factors, such as the type of beer and how much alcohol content it contains. Generally, a .08 BAC level requires an average adult male to consume about four drinks (12-ounce beers) over two hours.

However, this number is highly individualized as body weight and certain food consumption also affects BAC levels. Each person processes alcohol differently.

Intoxication/Social Drinking

- ⁸ Deacons likewise *must be* men of dignity, not insincere, not prone to *drink much* wine, not greedy for money - 1 Timothy 3.8 –
- If we used this phraseology to talk about other sins – would we say – Not given to **much** lying?
- Does this indicate that a little lying is okay – but not too much?

BAC – BLOOD ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION

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- Early sources write – that the dilution ratio was 6-parts water and 1-part wine.
- Concluding that one would have to drink very large quantities before becoming intoxicated.

Intoxication/Social Drinking

- “Few things have created as much havoc on personal lives, families, and society as has alcohol. 39 % of all traffic fatalities involve drinking drivers (over 25,000 annually). Over 50 % of criminal activity involves the use of alcohol. Most domestic violence involves alcohol. 25 % of all divorces can be blamed on alcohol. Add to the above the ravaged lives of those who become addicted to alcohol, and you begin to see the destructive nature of this product. ‘Alcohol constitutes the country’s greatest mental health problems. It accounts for about 25 % of the patients in mental hospitals’ (Dr. Karl Menninger).”

Psychiatrist - member of the Menninger family of psychiatrists

Intoxication/Social Drinking

- 1 Peter 4.2-4
- ³ For the time that has passed was sufficient for you to do what the non-Christians desire. You lived then in debauchery, evil desires, drunkenness, carousing, drinking bouts, and wanton idolatries.

Intoxication/Social Drinking

- 1 Peter 4.2-4
- **Debauchery** - excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures.
- **Drunkenness** –
- **Carousing** –
- **Drinking bouts** -

Intoxication/Social Drinking

- 1 Peter 4.2-4
- **Banquetings** – (listed here in the list of debased conduct) – comes from *potos* – meaning “a drinking; carousing” (Thayer p. 533)
- Trench – a drinking bout; the banquet – a drinking party where people drink alcoholic beverages -

Intoxication/Social Drinking

- **Jesus turned water into wine – John 2.1-11**
- **Does this give approval for drinking alcohol?**
- IF Jesus turned water into an intoxicating wine – then He clearly violated the clear teachings of the Old Testament.
- Habakkuk 2.15-16, “Woe unto him who gives his neighbor drink...”