

ALCOHOL & MARIJUANA

May 28, 2017

Introduction: I have never seen a sin so repeatable gripping and physically destructive as the sin of drunkenness. It continues to destroy individuals and their families – causing traffic accidents as well as loss of productivity. Alcohol is responsible for 88,000 deaths each year, and has accounted for 1 in 10 deaths among working-age adults aged 20-64. While we know the damaging statistics, we are left with a question that continues to divide, “Is it a sin to drink alcohol?”

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 23:29-35

- I. Biases and Backgrounds
- II. Alcohol & Marijuana

Drunkenness and marijuana have many of the same characteristics. Each affect brain functions resulting in alterations in perception, mood, consciousness, cognition and behavior. We can determine that since it is sinful to become intoxicated by alcohol, it is sinful to become intoxicated by marijuana.

III. Is It a Sin to Drink Alcohol?

- A. Timothy is instructed to drink wine.
*(No longer drink only water, but **use a little wine for the sake of your stomach** and your frequent ailments) (1 Timothy 5:23).*
- B. Qualifications for elders and deacons.
² *Therefore an overseer must be above reproach... ³ **not a drunkard...***
(1 Timothy 3:2a, 3a).

*Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, **not addicted to much wine**, not greedy for dishonest gain (1 Timothy 3:8).*
- C. The wedding at Cana – John 2:1-11
⁹ *When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But **you have kept the good wine until now**” (John 2:9–10).*
- D. Description of God’s goodness.

¹⁴ You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth ¹⁵ and **wine to gladden the heart of man**, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart (Psalm 104:14–15).

IV. Warnings

- A. Even though wine was permitted – we must also realize that it is fraught with danger.

²⁹ Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? ³⁰ **Those who tarry long over wine; those who go to try mixed wine.** ³¹ Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. ³² In the end it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder. ³³ Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart utter perverse things. ³⁴ You will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, like one who lies on the top of a mast. ³⁵ “They struck me,” you will say, “but I was not hurt; they beat me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake? **I must have another drink**” (Proverbs 23:29–35).

- B. Alcohol and drugs cause great devastation.

Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise (Proverbs 20:1).

These also reel **with wine and stagger with strong drink**; the priest and the prophet reel with strong drink, they are swallowed by wine, they stagger with strong drink, they reel in vision, they stumble in giving judgment (Isaiah 28:7).

Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may **run after strong drink**, who tarry late into the evening as wine inflames them! (Isaiah 5:11).

- C. Drunkenness has eternal consequences.

nor thieves, nor the greedy, **nor drunkards**, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:10).

envy, **drunkenness**, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:21).

V. Struggling with Others

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. **For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.** ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me (Romans 7:14–17).

- A. Learn all you can about alcoholism and drug dependence
- B. Speak up and offer your support
- C. Express love and concern
- D. Don't expect the person to stop without help

- E. Support recovery as an ongoing process
- F. Pray

VI. Suggestions on Preventing Abuse in the Home

- A. Set a good example.
- B. Make holiness not rules your goal.
- C. Involve other families in raising your children.
- D. Know your children's friends and their parents.
- E. Be aware of the warning signs.
- F. Continue to pray

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- III. Is It a Sin to Drink Alcohol?

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- B. Qualifications for elders and deacons. (*1 Timothy 3:2a, 3a*) (*1 Timothy 3:8*)
- C. The Wedding at Cana. (*John 2:1-11*)
- D. Description of God’s goodness. (*Psalms 104:14-15*)

IV. Warnings

- A. Even though wine was _____ – we must also realize that it is fraught with _____. (*Proverbs 23:29-35*)
- B. Alcohol and drugs cause great _____. (*Proverbs 20:1*) (*Isaiah 28:7*) (*Isaiah 5:11*)
- C. Drunkenness has _____ consequences. (*1 Corinthians 6:10*) (*Galatians 5:21*)

V. Struggling with Others (*Romans 7:14-17*)

VI. Suggestions on Preventing Abuse in the Home