

Alcohol

1. Alcohol is promoted and popularized in a big way in our society. Young people are targeted with alcohol in the media regularly. The liquor industry is “big business” in this country and they tell us to “drink responsibly”.

2. Alcohol is used to “relax and have a good time”. Alcohol contains chemicals that suppress brain and body functions. Alcohol is a depressant and it puts the brain to sleep in gradual stages.

3. “Wine” (Heb. *yayin* or Gr. *oinos*) in the Bible is a general term and must be studied according to how it is used in a particular context. It can refer to a fermented, intoxicating alcoholic drink, or, it can refer to unfermented grape juice (Isa. 65:8). Many try to defend their practice of drinking alcohol from the Bible:

One should not appeal to the word “drunkenness” (Gal. 5:21). When we start with the first drink we begin to grow drunk (Eph. 5:18).

One should not appeal to what Jesus did (Jn. 2:1-11). Jesus would not produce a drink that causes the problems condemned elsewhere in scripture (Hab. 2:15).

One should not appeal to what Paul said Timothy (1 Tim. 5:23). This was a small amount of wine for a medical problem (see also Lk. 10:34).

4. Alcohol causes physical problems (Psa. 107:27; Prov. 23:20-21, 29-35; Isa. 19:14; 28:7-8) and emotional problems (Gen. 9:20-21; 19:32; Prov. 31:4-7; Isa. 5:11-12, 22-23; 28:7; Hosea 4:7; Amos 6:6; Hab. 2:15; Lk. 21:34). Alcohol harms the body (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 6:19-20) and the mind (Tit. 2:5-6).

5. Alcohol is accurately described as a “serpent” and a “viper” (Prov. 23:32). Alcohol, like the venom of a snake is a neurotoxin and a hemotoxin in the body.

6. Alcohol causes problems outside the one doing the drinking: influence, finances, family, work, crime, DUI accidents and deaths, sexual immorality, fighting, lose behavior, etc. (Isa. 5:11-12; Prov. 20:1; 21:17; 23:21; Eph. 5:18; 1 Pet. 4:3-4).

7. Alcohol in large amounts (drunkenness) is condemned (1 Cor. 5:11; 6:9-10; Gal. 5:21; etc.). Alcohol in small amounts (drinking party) is condemned (Eph. 5:18; 1 Pet. 4:3).

8. A Christian is to be: a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1), self-controlled (1 Cor. 6:12), glorifying God in the body (1 Cor. 6:19-20), Christ-controlled (Gal. 2:20), and sober (1 Thess. 5:6; Tit. 2:2, 5-6).

9. Get the facts about alcohol, both the natural facts and the biblical facts. Alcohol will destroy you internally, externally, and eternally!