

Summer sermon series – What are people talking about? – Can Christians drink alcohol?

How does the bible help us think and act well on this topic?

What does the bible say?**A) Alcohol is good**

1) Jesus made the best wine ever

... and he made a lot of it.

... try to prove that the wine Jesus made was not alcoholic

2) The Blessings God provides

Psalm 104: 14-15, “he makes grass grow for cattle, and plants for people to cultivate – bringing forth food from the earth; wine that gladdens human hearts, oil to make their faces shine and bread that sustains their hearts”

B) Alcohol can be bad

1) Alcohol clouds your judgement

Proverbs 31

verse 4 ... the danger of drinking wine and craving beer.

verse 5 ... you might forget what God has decreed and deprive people of justice by oppressing their rights.

Proverbs is not the same as OT law

verse 6 ... what wine is good for.

verse 7 ... a significant level of drinking?

2) Alcohol can lead to being drunk

Gal 5:19-21 “The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

1 Cor 5:11, “But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people.”

Boundary markers

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... when am I drinking too much?

A problem with this way of thinking

... there to warn of dangers.

So where to from here?

- a) Know yourself.
- b) Know your brothers and sisters in Christ.
- c) Know the world that we live in.
- d) Reflect on how alcohol impacts ...

What matters in long run?

... some things in life that our culture is consumed with pale into insignificance when compared to where we are heading as followers of Jesus.

Challenging questions to ask yourself

- Do you drink too much or do you drink too often?
- Have you become dependent on your regular drink?
- If you are honest with yourself does what you drink impact your family? How does it impact your desire to honour God?
- What image of drink are you passing on to those who observe you? Your family and friends?
- Would you drink what you drink if God was sitting on the couch in your lounge room?
- How much money do you spend on alcohol? (only to think about not tell anyone)