

The Curse of Social Drinking

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Introduction: This should be a subject of great concern for every Christian.

- A. The church has been deeply affected by drug and alcohol addiction.
 - 1. Many come from families with these problems. Most in the church in Lincoln had been affected in some way.
 - 2. There are many within churches who hide these problems in their lives.
(Example: An Alcoholic Elder successfully hid it for years. His children have followed the same pattern.)
- B. The issue of addiction is one of control. Who do you wish to control your life?
How do you answer? (**Gal 5:16-17**)

I. Is Social Drinking Acceptable?

- A. While the issue of social drinking and addiction are different but related issues, it is important to note that *addiction has a start*.
 - 1. Over 70% of the people in this country drink.
 - 2. Over 40 million are **known** alcoholics.
 - 3. One out of seven who take their first drink becomes an alcoholic.
- B. What is the “strong” drink of the scriptures? (**Prov 20:1; 31:6**)
 - 1. This is undiluted fermented grape juice. This is the equivalent of our modern day beer.
 - 2. The typical use of wine both in the Old and New Testaments, involves a diluting of the grape juice with 3 to 5 parts water.
 - 3. This process in fact acted as a purifying agent for the water. (**1 Tim 5:23**)
 - 4. There is no parallel with the common Bible wines and the modern social drink, except that of strong drink. This is everywhere condemned in the scripture.
- C. There are different levels of drinking and they are all condemned. (**1 Pt 4:3-4**)
 - 1. Is drunkenness the only thing condemned? No! There is also “revelries, drinking parties.”
 - 2. This denotes both the action of social intercourse and the kind of drinking itself!
 - 3. What other sins accompany the modern drink? (**Gal 5:19-21**)
- D. Consider the strong warnings concerning drunkenness. (**1 Cor 5:11; 6:19-21; Lk 21:34-36**)
 - 1. You cannot go to heaven and be a drunkard.
 - 2. You may say: “I will never be a drunkard!”“A man who once drinks a single dram of liquor may die a drunkard. He who tastes it never, never can!”
- E. Would you drink if you knew Jesus was coming today?
 - 1. (**Rom 13:11-14; 1 Cor 6:9-11**) - The same argument can be made for modern drug abuse! Would Jesus smoke pot?
 - 2. How much is your soul worth?
- F. What does this do for your influence for Christ?
 - 1. I have never known of a Christian who seriously wanted to reach the lost who was a social drinker. (**1 Cor 9:18-23**)
 - 2. What are the fruits of drinking in this country? How many have you known who have been affected by drinking? (Example: Friend at work.)
 - 3. What if you saw an elder drinking at a bar? (**Rom 14:13-23; 1 Peter 2:12**)

II. The Deception of the High.

A. Drinking and drugs have **deception** at their core. (**Prov 23:29-35**)

1. Many want a brief escape.
2. It can become a permanent one. Note those who in spite of terrible consequences, go back to it.

“Alcohol does not drown care, but waters it and makes it grow faster.” - Benjamin Franklin

“There is no situation so bad that a few alcoholic drinks won't make it worse.”

B. We must choose to keep our eyes open and honestly deal with the issues of life.

1. Depression and addiction are common partners.
2. The Christian can go to the Lord for the strength to face the hurts of life.

(**Mt 11:28-30**)

3. The choices made in youth often become permanent.
4. Some sell drugs as a short cut to responsibility. They must close their eyes to the fruit of their actions.

“Drunkenness is temporary suicide; the happiness that it brings is merely negative, a momentary cessation of unhappiness.” - Bertrand Arthur William Russell (1872-1970)

C. Dishonesty is a way of life for the addict.

1. They deny it's danger.
2. They then deny the seriousness of their own situation. (Example: “I do not have a problem!”)
3. Lying becomes a way of life. The biggest lie they tell to themselves!
4. In short they trust no one who will tell them the truth and help.

D. “Friends” and Associates go with drugs.

1. One of the reason people start is to be with the “in” crowd.
2. Sadly, this becomes a major hurdle to quitting. Some never become Christians because they fear the ridicule of these “friends.”
3. Many are blind to the “dog eat dog” nature of these people. (**Jn 15:18-19; 16:20 1 Jn 3:13**)
4. If you really cared for a friend in this kind of group, what would you do?

III. Overcoming Alcohol and Drugs

A. Seek the truth at all costs. (**John 8:32**)

B. Do not be intimidated by the consequences. (**Mt 19:20-22**)

C. Build a faith in God that will stand. (**1 John 5:3-5; Rev 21:8**)

D. Seek the help of spiritual men. (**Gal 6:1-2**)

Conclusion: Will you submit to God and put away the life of the world? (**Titus 2:11-14**)

I am the greatest criminal in history.

I have killed more men than have fallen in all the wars of all the world.

I have turned men into brutes.

I have made millions of homes unhappy.

I have changed many promising young men into hopeless parasites.

I destroy the weak and weaken the strong.

I make the wise man a fool and I ensnare the innocent.

I have ruined millions and shall try to ruin millions more.

I am alcohol. - H. W Gibson