

November 9 & 12, 2023



Confronting Christianity - Week #9 Does the Bible Forbid Drinking?

Considerations for developing a biblical conviction on alcohol:

1. Understand that drinking is not a sin!

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV)

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Romans 13:1-2 (NIV)

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ² Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

2. Realize drunkenness is a sin!

Galatians 5:19-21 (NIV)

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.

3. Consider a better question concerning alcohol!

Proverbs 20:1 (NIV)

Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.

Ephesians 5:15-20 (NIV)

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- We will either be full of the Spirit or full of spirits!

1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Corinthians 6:12 (ESV)

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything.

4. Ask yourself: “why do I drink?” or “why don’t I drink?”

- Legalism may be far more dangerous than alcoholism!

- Am I using alcohol as a substitute (replacement) for God?

Proverbs 31:6-7 (NIV)

*Let beer be for those who are perishing, wine for those who are in anguish!
7 Let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more.*

5. Consider how your use of alcohol affect others!

1 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV)

Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

Romans 14:19-23 (NIV)

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. ²⁰ Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. ²¹ It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall. ²² So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. ²³ But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.