

## THE USE OF ALCOHOL AT MEDWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH

*At Medway Community Church (MCC) we are committed to teaching, and living, a life that is holy unto God. We seek to live authentic Christianity that is beholden neither to the whims of licentiousness nor the yoke of legalism. Given that, here is our current position statement on the use of alcoholic drinks, framed in a casual, Q&A format.*

**Q: According to the Bible, so long as we take care to avoid the injury of others, is there ever a place for drinking to excess?**

A: Scripture is clear that drunkenness is sin, and never has any place in the life of a Christ-follower, occasional or otherwise (Prov 20:1, Eph 5:18).

**Q: Aside from drunkenness, is the moderate use of alcohol sinful for the Christian?**

A: The Bible references many individuals, including both Christ and his disciples, using wine (John 2). The beverage use of alcohol is commended in Scripture, both for its medicinal purposes (1 Tim 5:23) as well as for social enjoyment and celebration (Psalm 104:15). At Medway Community Church, we believe the moderate use of alcohol to be acceptable before God.

**Q: How does Medway Community Church view the use of alcohol at adult church gatherings?**

A: At MCC, we recognize we live in a society that has experienced, time and again, the ravages of alcoholism and the abuse of alcoholic drink. In addition, there always exists in the larger church context the possibility of a brother or sister who possess a sincere conviction against the use of alcohol. Therefore, for the benefit of our “grieved” brethren (Rom 14:15, ESV), as well as to avoid causing anyone to stumble into sin (Rom 14:13), the elders encourage church sponsored gatherings that are primarily attended by the church family (e.g. Community Group parties, Valentine’s Dinner, etc), to take care when including the beverage use of alcohol. This will include giving special consideration if there are those in attendance who struggle with the abuse of alcohol or have a “liberty of conscience” issue surrounding it’s use.

**Q: How does Medway Community Church view the use of alcohol at family, children & youth, and outreach events?**

MCC events that are primarily outreach in their orientation or include children & youth (e.g. Harvest Festival, Men’s BBQ, etc) will not include alcohol.

**Q: Jesus used wine when he instituted the Lord’s Supper. Why is juice used here instead, when MCC celebrates communion?**

A: In the first century when Jesus lived, refrigeration and other forms of juice preservation were uncommon. Consequently, even from childhood, alcohol was widespread in the life of individuals. At MCC, to avoid the potential temptation of those who struggle with alcohol, we have chosen to utilize grape juice during our celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

*(Unanimously approved by Board of Elders, 03/2019)*

