

Alcohol Use Guidelines

(Rev. 10/22/09)

Since the Bible refers to wine as one of God's blessings, but to the abuse of alcohol as sinful, it is important that Christians know and apply the biblical principles outlined in the Scriptures in such places as Romans 14 and 15 and 1 Corinthians 8 and 9, in order to make careful and wise choices with biblically informed discretion. While there are Christian freedoms that the Bible allows, these must be handled with great discretion and care. To give assistance to every believer in our congregation in making appropriate choices in the matter of alcohol use, we offer not rules and regulations, but the following guidelines, trusting that the Christian who is using the Scriptures and prayerfully relying on the Holy Spirit will arrive at the best choice for themselves and for the good of their fellow believers. Frequently, that choice will include the voluntary setting aside of that freedom. Therefore,

In regards to alcohol use:

Every believer should prayerfully look to the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures for wisdom and guidance in this matter.

Church leaders should be exemplary in applying biblical discretion in the use of alcohol. This may include willingly surrendering the freedom to consume alcohol, both for the sake of self discipline and to avoid causing a brother or sister in Christ to stumble and their faith to be damaged.

Because youth look to the examples of their youth sponsors and to emulate them, it is particularly important that those involved in youth and children's ministries at all levels should not have alcohol available nor should they consume it in front of the youth. In addition, youth and children's workers have a responsibility to support parental views in child-rearing decisions regarding either abstinence or moderation which includes biblically informed discretion.

While church building use policy does not permit the use of alcohol on church premises, we also recommend that believers prayerfully consider not providing an "open bar" when hosting social events such as wedding receptions or other such social settings in order to avoid making unlimited amounts of alcohol available to someone who may abuse it, or may feel tempted or pressured to drink it against their conscience.

Church Board