

# **Ephesians: Giving Glory to God in His Church XXII**

## **Be Not Drunk with Wine**

***Ephesians 5:18a And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess.***

This is a must when seeking to give glory to God in His church. Drunkenness clouds the mind and inflames the passions. Clear and sober thinking and disciplining of the passions puts us in the proper position to honor our God and be of benefit to others.

Alcoholism is prevalent problem in our country where there are over 20 million alcoholics, of which about 3 ½ million are teenagers. It kills with drunk driving, unbridled passions, and stupefying thinking, along with destroying homes. Alcohol is nothing to play around with.

This subject is an excellent example where people go to the extremes of legalism (demanding something in addition to God's law) or to the extremes of antinomianism (promoting something in opposition to God's law).

The Scriptures give abundant warning as to the abuse of alcohol: ***Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.***

***Proverbs 21:17 He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.***

***Proverbs 23:20-21, 29-35, Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: 21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags...29 ¶ Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? 30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. 31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. 32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. 33 Thine eyes shall behold***

*strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. 34 Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. 35 They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.*

Upon this subject of *Ephesians: Giving Glory to God in His Church XXII: Be Not Drunk with Wine*, we will start with, first, *Is Drinking Lawful?*; second, *Is Drinking Conditional?*; and third, *Is Drinking Expedient?*

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## **I. Is Drinking Lawful?**

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- A. What kind of wine is in the Bible? Look up all the times wine and strong drink is mentioned
- B. Hebrew
  - 1. 03196 יַיִן yayin yah'-yin; from an unused root meaning to effervesce, Greek 3631 οἶνος; n m; AV-wine 137, vine 1, banqueting 1, winebibbers + 05433 1; 140; 1) wine; Noah got drunk on this in **Genesis 9:21, 24**; as did the daughters of Lot use to get their father drunk; used as the drink offering to the Lord, no leaven allowed in offerings to the Lord; Eli accused Hannah of being drunk with this wine when she prayed;
  - 2. 08492 שְׂרִיֵּת tiyrowsh tee-roshe' or שְׂרִיֵּת tiyroshe' tee-roshe'; from 03423 in the sense of expulsion; n m; {See TWOT on 2505}; AV-wine 38; 38; 1) wine, fresh or new wine, must, freshly pressed wine; **Look up and see if reference is to its connection with the harvest and the beginnings, such as associated with corn**; See Hosea 4:11 Whoredom and wine <03196> and new wine <08492> take away the heart.

3. 07941 כרש shekar shay-kawr' from 07937, Greek 4608 αικερα and 4965 συχαρ; n m; {See TWOT on 2388 @@ "2388a"} AV-strong drink 21, strong wine 1, drunkard 1; 23; 1) strong drink, intoxicating drink, fermented or intoxicating liquor; strong wine used as a drink offering to the Lord in **Numbers 28:7**
4. 03342 בקי yeqeb yeh'- keb; from an unused root meaning to excavate; n m; {See TWOT on 900 @@ "900a"}; AV-winepresses 10, press 2, fats 2, pressfat 1, wine 1; 16; 1) wine vat, wine-press
5. 02562 רחם chamar (Aramaic), kham-ar'; n m; AV-wine 6; 6; 1) wine; mentioned in **Ezra** referring to the priest's portion, apparently to drink offerings (wine) as the other offerings are mentioned in context; and in **Daniel** what King Belshazzar drank.
6. 04469 מרמם mamcak mam-sawk'; AV-mixed wine 1, drink offering 1; 2; 1) mixed drink, mixed wine, drink-offering
7. 05435 אבס cobe' so'- beh; AV-wine 1, drink 1, drunken 1; 3; 1) drink, liquor, wine
8. 02561 רחם chemer kheh'- mer; AV-pure 1, red wine 1; 2; 1) wine
9. 06071 סיטע 'aciyc aw-sees'; AV-new wine 2, sweet wine 2, juice 1; 5; 1) sweet wine, wine, pressed out juice

C. Greek

1. Our text: 3631 οινος oinos oy'-nos, a primary word (or perhaps of Hebrew origin וי, 03196); TDNT-5:162,680; {See TDNT 541} n m; AV-wine 32, winepress + 3125 1; 33; 1) wine 2) metaph. fiery

- wine of God's wrath. Obviously, you can get drunk with this as our text indicates.
2. 3943 παροινοσ paroinos par'-oy-nos; from 3844 and 3631; ; adj; AV-given to wine 2; 2; 1) given to wine, drunken
  3. 4608 σικερα sikera sik'-er-ah; of Hebrew origin כרש 07941; ; n n; AV-strong drink 1; 1; John the Baptist was not to drink this or wine; thus, probably a Nazarite.; 1) strong drink, an intoxicating beverage, different from wine; it was an artificial product, made of a mixture of sweet ingredients, whether derived from grain and vegetables, or from the juice of fruits (dates), or a decoction of honey
  4. **Acts 2:13 Others mocking said These men are full of new wine** <1098>. 1098 γλευκος gleukos glyoo'-kos; n; AV-new wine 1; 1; 1) the sweet juice pressed the grape, sweet wine. Must be alcoholic or Peter wouldn't have defended by saying it is only 9:00 in the morning, that it is not likely.
  5. **Luke 5:37-38 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. 38 But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.**
  6. Tirosh is the most general term for "vintage fruit," put in connection with "corn and oil," necessaries (dagan, yitshar, rather more generally the produce of the field and the orchard) and ordinary articles of diet in Palestine. It occurs 38 times, namely, six times by itself, eleven times with dagan, twice with yitshar, nineteen times with both dagan

and yitshar. Besides, it is seven times with "firstfruits," ten times with "tithes" or "offerings" of fruits and grain; very rarely with terms expressing the process of preparing fruits or vegetable produce. Yayin is the proper term for "wine." In #Mic 6:15, "thou shalt tread ... sweet wine (tirowsh, vintage fruit), but shalt not drink wine," the vintage fruit, that which is trodden, is distinguished from the manufactured "wine" which it yields. Tirowh is never combined with shemen "oil;" nor yitshar, "orchard produce," with "wine" the manufactured article. In #De 11:14, "gather in thy grain, wine" (tirowsh), it is described as a solid thing, eaten in 12:7; compare #2Ch 31:5-6. In #Isa 65:8 "the tirowsh (vintage) is found in the cluster;" 62:8-9, "the stranger shall not drink thy tirowsh, but they that have gathered it ... and brought it together (verbs hardly applicable to a liquid) shall drink it." #Pr 3:10, "presses ... burst out with tirowsh;" and #Joe 2:24, "fats shall overflow with tirowsh (vintage fruit) and yitshar." #De 14:22-26, "tithe of tirowsh," not merely of wine but of the vintage fruit. Scripture denounces the abuse of yayin, "wine." #Ho 4:11, "whoredom, wine, and tirowsh take away the heart:" the tirowsh is denounced not as evil in itself, but as associated with whoredom to which wine and grape cakes were stimulants; compare #Ho 3:1, "love pressed cakes of dried grapes" (not "flagons of wine"): #Eze 16:49,

7. Yayin, from a root "boil up," is the extract from the grape, whether simple grape

juice unfermented, some say by boiling of it to make a syrup like concoction, rather, the boiling up by the natural fermentation process or intoxicating wine; related to the Greek oinos, Latin vinum. Vinum, vitis, are thought related to Sanskrit we,

- D. The Bible has examples of people drinking, Jesus turned the water into wine; wine was used during the Passover after the Babylonian Captivity.
- E. Drinking is not forbidden, but drunkenness is according to our text.
- F. Understand being able to keep food from spoiling, not having refrigeration, the time was limited, so they had wine; moreover, water was not always pure, nor was it always plentiful, especially in arid to semi-arid places in the Middle East.
- G. There are indications of minimal cases involving strengthening or diminishing the effects of the wine, by adding strong drink or water or some other spices or liquid.
- H. By far, most wine indicated in the Scriptures is fermented, of varying strengths, as even today.

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## **II. Is Drinking Conditional?**

- A. **Ephesians 5:18a And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess.** Drunkenness is forbidden.
- B. The Lord's Supper—**I Corinthians 11:21**
- C. Medicinal purposes, used natural remedies, no chemical laboratories artificially produced like today.
  - 1. Timothy was encouraged to take a little wine for his stomach's sake—**I Timothy 5:23**
  - 2. Those depressed, dying, as a pain killer—**Proverbs 31:6 Give strong**

**drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.** Only in this certain occasion, not drunkenness, or in the practice of being drunk.

- D. The sons of Aaron, the priests—**Leviticus 10:9 Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations:**
- E. Nazarites—**Numbers 6:3, 20**, and John the Baptist
- F. Pastors are not to be given to wine; **I Timothy 3:3**
- G. Deacons are not to be given to much wine—**I Timothy 3:8**
- H. The aged women who taught the younger women: **Titus 2:3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;**
- I. Kings and rulers—**Proverbs 31:4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:**

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### **III. Is Drinking Expedient?**

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- A. **1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power (unlawful influence) of any.**
- B. **1 Corinthians 10:23 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.** Drinking would tend to tear down our testimony, destroy the weak, and we don't need it except in the Lord's Supper.

- C.** The word translated **expedient**, is the Greek word, συμφερω *sumphero soom-fer'-o, v; AV-* be expedient 7, profit 4, be profitable 3, bring together 1, be better 1, be good 1; 17; 1) to bear or bring together 2) to bear together or at the same time 2a) to carry with others 2b) to collect or contribute in order to help 2c) to help, be profitable, be expedient
- D.** Drinking and driving is deadly
- E.** Getting drunk starts with one drink
- F.** ***Luke 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting*** (giddiness and headache from drinking to the point of intoxication), ***and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.***
- G.** ***1 Corinthians 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.***
- H.** ***1 Corinthians 6:10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.***
- I.** Because drinking alcohol is not part of the Recommended Daily Allowances to survive physically, we understand we don't need to drink.
- J.** Furthermore, drinking is known to be harmful to your health and the welfare of others when abused.
- K.** What kind of testimony do we leave? Do we tempt the weak and cause them to stumble into alcoholism or drunkenness? ***Romans 14:21 It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine,***

***nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.***

- L.** Most people would consider you a hypocrite if they saw you drinking or would encourage themselves in their sin of drunkenness and alcoholism.
- M.** There is far more warnings against drinking than examples of those drinking.
- N.** ***Habakkuk 2:15 Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!*** Encourages immorality.
- O.** ***Isaiah 28:7 But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.*** Clouds your thinking, reasoning and judging right and wrong. Also, causes stumbling.
- P.** House of Rechab—see ***Jeremiah 35***, no wine to foster sober thinking in treacherous times of Assyrians taking Israel. No tents or vineyards, implication, herding and keeping animals for food.

Finally, I understand why some would preach teetotalism because of the awful devastation that occurs with alcohol abuse; prohibition was a response to that, which, by the way, caused many churches to wrongly start using grape juice instead of wine in the Lord's Supper.

I don't drink because of alcoholics in my family, my past drinking days, the stigma attached to drinking and the for testimony's sake, to win others to Christ, and to so that I don't lead myself into temptation.

***1 Peter 4:3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked***

***in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:*** Such drinking was associated with Bacchus the god of drunkenness, revelry and sexual immorality associated with that.

Remember, ***Ephesians 5:18a And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess.***

***Isaiah 5:22 Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink:***

➤ *By: A.C. Proctor; Midweek Service P.M., October 21<sup>st</sup> in the Year of our Lord Jesus Christ 2015 A.D.—Rural Hall, NC*