

Scriptures and Doctrine :: The Christian and Alcohol by John MacArthur

The Christian and Alcohol by John MacArthur, on: 2016/8/12 7:57

<https://youtu.be/thXe-rtpl6U>

In the above video John MacArthur does an excellent job comparing the alcoholic beverages of the Old and New Testament and the alcoholic beverages of the day. Also he argues for abstention from alcoholic beverages today because of the dangers resulting from them. Dr. MacArthur shows from research that the alcoholic content of wine is much higher than what we find in the old and the New Testament.

Whereas I have an issue with John MacArthur's Calvinism. I cannot argue with his reasoning from the scriptures he puts forth or his research presented in this video.

I believe this video will provide much insight given the ongoing discussion on the other thread. It is about an hour and 15 minutes long but well worth listening to.

Greg posted this on the other thread. I thought I would post this on a separate thread so it would not get lost in the discussion taking place.

Again I would encourage us to listen to this with humble submissive hearts. I find it hard to argue against Dr. MacArthur's wisdom. Particularly on his wisdom to abstain from alcohol in this day and age. That being from its high alcoholic content.

Respectfully posted.

Re: The Christian and Alcohol by John MacArthur - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/8/12 9:27

John MacArthur

at 1:02:40 "The purpose of mixing the wine with water was to sanitize the water, that's really what's going on, to make the water safe cause you can not live without water. no one can."

1:06:55 "I live in a sanitary world, I don't live in the world they lived in, I don't have any need for that, It was necessary then it is not necessary now.

If MacArthur's conclusion was correct then everyone in Biblical times would have had to drink Wine (because it was necessary), but the Bible clearly teaches otherwise: John the Baptist did not drink,, others vowed to not drink, thus proving it was not necessary back then, anymore than it is necessary today.

edit: for clarity

Re: , on: 2016/8/12 11:10

Okay I watched the video, open to changing my mind but it did not carry any weight for me.

Water was mainly brought up from wells when needed (the woman at the well) and will have been sanitized by the filtering action as it soaked through the earth. And also in those days people will have had much stronger immune systems, and more hydrochloric acid in their stomachs than us, after meals, so I do not accept the argument that all water had to contain wine in order for it to be safe. It still does not explain the fact that many pints of it would have had to have been drunk in order to have inebriated people.

I think that what you have today in America regarding the serious problems with drink is because of there being so much

legalism in the past. It is a backthrow to this. I don't recall any more issues amongst British believers than in the past. Leaders of the CoE have taken moderate drink I believe, in fact the folk in the CoE in the times of Queen Mary, saved the church from destruction due to the long term practice of selling ale.

No, I think that your pigeons have come to roost.

Re: , on: 2016/8/12 11:24

The perspective from our European brethren has been very helpful. This does not seem to be an area in which they struggle with legalism.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/8/12 11:28

RE: ///Water was mainly brought up from wells when needed (the woman at the well)///

His entire foundation for his argument crumbles in the light of Scripture.

Then the Question is left why did Jesus choose to drink alcoholic wine ?

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2016/8/12 12:02

In no way am I arguing that believers abstained fully from wine in the New Testament. But what I have been saying clearly and no one has even commented or desired to consider the fact that wine in the New Testament was much different than modern wine (the popular consumed elements).

It is conjecture that everyone Jesus created or drank wine that it was alcoholic. And when he went to hang around more seedy people such as tax collectors and prostitutes who were drinking probably the "strong drink" he in all probability did not drink it but his very association and being in the homes brought the accusation amongst the pharisees of being a wine bibber.

I cannot imagine someone watching the entire presentation from John MacArthur and shrugging the shoulders and saying nothing has changed in their minds.

We are quite deceived by modern beer, liquor and wine companies, the process has become alluring and has trapped many innocent victims. The alcohol is much higher and seeking to entrap saints who take liberties. We are essentially playing with fire.

I will exhort in the future all believers I see with a wine bottle to mix it at least half and half with water before serving as that would be the biblical wine that was consumed.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/8/12 12:15

I do not doubt that wine was mixed with water to "sterilize" it. It would make the water taste nasty but so be it.

But regular wine (9-16% alcohol content) was doubtlessly used as well, particularly at festive occasions. Again, the NT's admonitions against drunkenness only make sense if people were actually getting drunk- and they were. Paul said they were showing up to the communion feast to get drunk. He told them to drink at home. (1 Cor. 11:21-22)

To suggest that Jesus turned water into Welch's absolutely cannot be squared with the context of that whole narrative.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/8/12 13:10

RE: ///It is conjecture that everyone Jesus created or drank wine that it was alcoholic///

It is not conjecture it is clear : "The Son of man is come eating and drinking:"

add: conjecture is what Macarthurs sermon was filled with

Re: , on: 2016/8/12 13:46

from Greg :

Quote:
-----he in all probability did not drink it but his very association and being in the homes brought the accusation amongst the pharisees of being a wine bibber.

I doubt it very much that His detractors would give Him that nickname if He was not drinking with the sinners and the disciples were preaching against drink which they were not - just drunkenness. It seems clear to me that they were calling Him a glutton and wine drinker because of John the Baptist not doing those things in order to disprove what John was claiming about Him. They were saying that He drank which the scriptures supports.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/8/12 13:54

8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have "well drunk", then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

the phrase well "drunk" methuo means to drink to intoxication

Re: , on: 2016/8/12 14:05

Greg,
Brother I haven't watched it yet (I will, you have my word), but you still haven't answered my very common sense question: you are conjecturing that it was different. In previous discussions, you & others have used words like "trace amount s" of alcohol & the like. If modern beer is 4-6% & modern wine usually around 9-10%, then what is your conjectured percentage of their wine? Have you studied it out to know what percentage it would need to be to actually sterilize unsterile water? I believe that It's more than you think. And you still haven't followed through the logic. If it takes about at least 2-3 6-8oz glasses of 9% wine MINIMUM to even begin to say anyone is "drunk", that's like about 1/5 of a gallon (24oz) of modern day wine. So, if it was 1%, the believers in 1 Corinthains had to drink almost 1.5-2 gallons of "their 1% wine" to get drunk? Is that logical? Have you ever sat and drank 2 gallons of anything? And the Lord's supper wasn't an all day event , so they would be up front GUZZLING & LITERALLY CHUGGING 2 gallons of wine to get drunk? Say what? I heard of a man that died a couple years ago from chugging a full gallon of water. But we are to believe these believers in Corinth quickly chugged 1.5-2 gallons of wine in the ekklesia? Or that that was what was actually necessary so that the Pharisees were actually accusing the apostles of having drank 2 gallons of wine by 9am in the morning on pentacost? Do you see how illogical that is? It's because the details have been shoehorned (forced) upon the text to hold up the narrative. It makes a discussion about the warnings of alcohol totally illogical, irrational, & unscriptural, so what your attempting to do (warn against drinking too much alcohol) gets totally lost by straw men that cause logical, Bible reading believers to tune out entirely. Does that not make sense to you? Since you keep saying it's not the same, what % do you propose it was ? Historians don't bear up what you're saying (it was maybe a little weaker possibly, but even if it was 1/2%, then 2 glasses = 1 glass today), but It's all totally speculative assumption.

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2016/8/13 18:17

I don't see how there is any way to determine the alcohol content of wine in Jesus' day. However, we do know that it had an effect on those who drank it. Peter was accused of being drunk on the day of Pentecost. The people at the wedding feast, as just posted by proudpapa, were at least buzzed to the point of having their senses somewhat dulled, and apparently this was commonplace at celebrations.

However, none of the arguments above speaks to whether it is good for a particular person in a particular culture to consume alcoholic beverages. And the issue is certainly not the blatant sinfulness of the action itself, as the New Testament does not speak in any way of God placing a prohibition on the consumption of a drink with alcoholic content.

I believe the topic is covered in great detail and clarity in 1 Corinthians 8. It is my understanding that in most European cultures, if a man claims to be a Christian and consumes wine at a meal, the non-believers will see absolutely no inconsistency. As long as his consumption is not in excess, the believer would not damage his witness to the non-believer at all by his liberty. Brenda, perhaps you can correct me if this observation is wrong.

However, in the USA, something very different is true. If I were to stop random unbelievers on the street and ask them their opinion of a man who claims to be a Christian and yet drinks an occasional beer, they would, much more often than not, claim that the man is a hypocrite and denounce his drinking as wrong.

So, in the USA, a believer consuming alcohol might very well offend a non-believer or a weak believer and cause that person to reject Christ or to stumble and fall. This is reason enough to say that an American believer should abstain.

Re: , on: 2016/8/13 18:38

Matthew 15:10-18

And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand: Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man. Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch. Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable. And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

So the emphasis is on the heart and the behavior and character of those who say they are Christians. If our character and behavior are not rooted in Christ it does not matter what we abstain from for the kingdom of God is not about meat nor drink, but RIGHTEOUSNESS.... peace and joy. Romans 14:17

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2016/8/13 20:22

Is this a takeoff of the other thread, or does this one have a different agenda?

Re: Travis, on: 2016/8/14 6:10

Quote:
----- in most European cultures, if a man claims to be a Christian and consumes wine at a meal, the non-believers will see absolutely no inconsistency. As long as his consumption is not in excess, the believer would not damage his witness to the non-believer at all by his liberty. Brenda, perhaps you can correct me if this observation is wrong.

It is correct. In fact the opposite often would apply.

Someone who refuses drink, can be seen to be a recovering alcoholic by many and someone to distrust. Especially in the culture I am from because drinking has been such a part of industrial working class community, where life was hard and

d dangerous, especially for coal miners, and a man would be out with his work mates on a Friday evening (Saturdays out with the wife) to relieve the pressures of a hard life, and the consumption of 10 pints of ale or more was common.

They could drink more in those days as they were lean and fit, at least for some years but anyone who did not drink would not be trusted and would not give the impression that he was more moral as morality had nothing to do with alcohol. I don't think that there were many alcoholics in those days and people were family orientated. Of course they were sinners, but community spirit was strong and decent behaviour was expected and adultery for example was frowned upon.

We never had the after effects of the Holiness Movement sinking into legality here. The CoE has always been tolerant of drinking in fact brewing it for funds. There has always been the belief that a man's beliefs are private and he would only be considered a hypocrite if he was criminally inclined or a bitter angry person.

It seems that the ingrained impression of a drinker in America is that of a shady character but here, it is more likely to be that of a hard working man.

The thing that counts as witnessing here, is never if you drink or not - it is how you treat others.

Re: , on: 2016/8/14 6:33

Quote:
-----So the emphasis is on the heart and the behavior and character of those who say they are Christians. If our character and behavior are not rooted in Christ it does not matter what we abstain from for the kingdom of God is not about meat nor drink, but RIGHTEOUSNESS.... peace and joy. Romans 14:17

Yes Julius that is the test.

I don't believe, after some further thought, that wine was weaker in those days. I think it was stronger and that is why there was so much warning about drunkenness. If it was mixed with water, then that tells me that it was too strong to drink without it if one wanted to avoid fast intoxication..

And the water, coming from wells, was a precious commodity. Greece and Israel are both dry countries with low rainfall.

If wine was used to sanitise water, and I don't believe that at all, then it would have been fermented for longer, in order to keep the water usage as low as possible, and don't forget they had honey to use for fermentation and as I said elsewhere it could easily make air locks.

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Re: - posted by Lysa (), on: 2016/8/14 10:30

Quote:
-----by MrBillPro
Is this a takeoff of the other thread, or does this one have a different agenda?

Nope, same agenda, different day.

Re: - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2016/8/14 10:57

Here's something that was written in a similar thread years ago, I cannot say it any better so I will simply copy the post here;

The thing I'm getting at is that a candy bar may be destructive to me, to the effect that it defiles my conscience if I eat it in disobedience to God's inner working in my life. If the Lord has been dealing with me on health issues; on excessive weight gain, dangerous blood-sugar levels, etc. and has regulated my intake of junk food as a result, my eating of the candy bar will defile my temple through disobedience. Another person may eat the same chocolate bar and not experience the pang of God's correction. God works with us on a case-by-case basis with these things.

But with alcohol and cigarettes, we run into a much more complicated issue. If an unbeliever observes me eating a chocolate bar, he will think nothing of it (even if I am disobeying God while I eat it), but if the same unbeliever observes me drink a beer or light up a cigarette, a check will immediately go off in his/her heart (even if I am drinking and smoking to my own preserved conscience). Unbelievers intrinsically know that real Christians should not smoke or drink - not even occasionally. Don't ask me why or how this is - it's just the stark reality of how this world operates.

Did you know that the only way a person can leave certain notorious gangs (without being killed through the "blood-out" law), is by an open confession to Christianity? But there's a catch: the converted member is closely monitored. If he or she is seen smoking or drinking, a hit is put out on them. They are considered fake Christians, and all deals for their safety are off.

This is how the world, controlled by Satan, sees the influence of tobacco and alcohol and how hypocritical it can make professed believers to appear. This, in my opinion, trumps the believer's own "settled conscience" for the matter. It's different from eating Doritos and drinking Dr. Pepper. Now, if I want my testimony to shine, I need to be careful what I allow in my life, and what other people observe me do. I don't see believers who choose to drink and smoke as unchristian, but unbelievers certainly see them as fake, or in the least acknowledge that something is very wrong with their walks. Intrinsically, unbelievers know not to take them seriously, especially if they attempt to preach against sin and worldliness. The world simply will not take them seriously, and God will not back their words to dissolve the suspicions of the unbelievers.

Here is a link to that thread....

https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=27230&forum=35&start=50

In Christ,

Re: bro Ron, on: 2016/8/14 19:32

Thank you brother. That post was from Paul West and I think that his statements highlight what the agenda or purpose of these threads ought to be. To discuss how to walk in a manner that glorifies Christ, that does not bring His name into disrepute nor cause another to stumble.

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2016/8/14 20:08

Quote:
----- Thank you brother. That post was from Paul West and I think that his statements highlight what the agenda or purpose of these threads ought to be. To discuss how to walk in a manner that glorifies Christ, that does not bring His name into disrepute nor cause another to stumble.

Absolutely! When there is any action or behavior that is not spelled out scripturally in black and white, this is to be our primary guide. Will my actions bring glory to Christ, edify other believers, and give no occasion for stumbling to any other man? We are to be motivated by love for our brother more than we are by our own desire for freedom of behavior.

Re: - posted by JFW (), on: 2016/8/14 21:59

So have any of you brothers read Spurgeons responses when he was called out for smoking cigars?
Would you brothers object to smoking cigars in the same way as you do having a glass of wine?

Btw, I love brother Paul West and miss his stabilizing presence here on SI-

Re: Spurgeon, on: 2016/8/14 23:41

I am aware of the comment to DL Moody about his fat stomach, but as brother Paul West points out, eating candy is not the same issue as these other vices.

I am not sure how true this is but according to the link below, it is said that Spurgeon gave up his cigars for health reasons and also for this...

"After Spurgeon's pronouncement of his 'cessmoking to the glory of God,' English businessmen began to market the cigars that Spurgeon smoked. Spurgeon once entered a store and saw a sign that said, 'Spurgeon smokes!' He also heard complaints from parents who were encouraging their children not to drink alcohol or smoke, only to receive the reply, 'But Spurgeon does!'"

<https://soldiersofchristenduringhardness.wordpress.com/2014/02/28/1469/>

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/8/15 0:22

RE: ///I am aware of the comment to DL Moody about his fat stomach, but as brother Paul West points out, eating candy is not the same issue as these other vices.///

I do not find that the candy and alcohol parallel works and I hope to try and explain why later.

Spurgeon was a Fallible man but who was not fallible was Jesus and the Scripture very clearly tells us that Jesus drank wine.

So the Question remains : why did Jesus drink wine ?

edit : clarity

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/8/15 0:36

Do Not Pass Judgment on One Another

1As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. 2One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. 3Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. 4Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

5One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. 6The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. 7For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 8For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. 9For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

10Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before th

e judgment seat of God; 11for it is written,

â€œAs I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.â€

12So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Do Not Cause Another to Stumble

13Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. 14I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. 15For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. 16So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. 17For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. 19So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

20Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. 21It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. 22The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. 23But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

Footnotes:

a 4 Or lord

b 11 Or shall give praise

c 21 Some manuscripts add or be hindered or be weakened

d 23 Some manuscripts insert here 16:25 - 27. Esv

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2016/8/15 7:51

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 their power of any.

At our church camp, we have a snack shack where we sell candy, ice cream, and soda. We were nearing the end of camp, and I quit restocking the snack shack so we would liquidate as much as we could and not have anything left over. The first item that we ran out of was Dr. Pepper. A woman working at the camp was very upset about this. She immediately went to town and purchased her own private stock of Dr. Pepper. Why? She could not make it through the day without her Dr. Pepper. She was addicted, under the power, of Dr. Pepper. The same can be true of coffee, sweet tea, sugary snacks, food, etc.. Addiction and misuse of alcohol has much more dire consequences to the user and to those around him. The same is true of cigarettes, cigars, etc.. But is the addiction to Dr. Pepper really any different in the sense of modesty, moderation, and the scripture above?

I have never knowingly drank an beverage with alcohol, nor have I ever used nicotine. I do not, and will not consume alcoholic beverages. I would advise every American believer to do the same. But the issue is not whether drinking an alcoholic beverage or smoking a cigar is a sin. The issue is, as was previously pointed out, that "But So and So does it!"

This is why I asked Brenda about customs in Europe. Our opinions are often shaped by our culture. It is hard for an American Christian to imagine a culture where a glass of wine or a stein of beer is looked on by the non-believer with no more significance than if I had a cup of coffee with my pie after a meal. At the same time, it is hard for a European to imagine a culture where a Christian having a glass of wine with a meal could very well be the reason a non-believer rejects the gospel.

The issue of alcohol consumption is not dealt with in scripture. The issue of alcohol abuse IS dealt with, as is gluttony, and addiction to any substance.

So the question of why Jesus had wine would not have even come up in His culture. To ask a person in His culture that question would have had about as much significance as to ask an American Christian why he had a cup of coffee or a glass of Coca Cola. I think the response would have been a puzzled look.

The issue is not the meat or the drink in this case. The issue is, in my opinion, two fold. First, by doing this thing am I glorifying God and presenting a good witness to those around me? This is charity. I will not, by my liberty, cause a brother to stumble. If I find that I am, I will voluntarily give up my liberty for the sake of my brother. Second, is doing this thing going to lead me into bondage to anything other than God? I would say that if there is even the slightest chance of an affirmative answer to this question, abstinence is the best policy.

Re: , on: 2016/8/15 10:24

Twayneb,

2 answers to your two questions:

1.) No, I don't believe what I do occasionally when no younger, weaker believer is even around (not that I'm "hiding" or "am different in private than public" as the accusing voices have tried to frame it, but that in the spirit of the Word of God, I do not want to make a brother or sister with a weaker conscience stumble). Fact is, no one would really even know it (save my wife, who doesn't drink or stumble because of it) save this public thread posted with a sermon (& ensuing 100 posts) accusing all believers of sin for even ever taking a sip. The leaven of the pharisees is a dangerous & sneaky/subtle thing sometimes. It goes beyond what is written, trumpets it from the rooftops, accuses others of sin where scripture does not specifically, & has a suspicious & fault finding spirit to it. And again, I am a holiness guy. I'm just not a Pharisee leaven guy.

2.) No, I'm not in bondage or addiction or enslaved. I am admittedly more addicted to the caffeine in my coffee than an average 1 a month (sometimes 1 every 3 months) glass of red wine. Are we going to now take a Mormon stance and declare coffee a sin? Sure, it's "addictive". I have a pretty solid background & understanding of nutrition, & I can tell you that modern, western "sugar addiction" is much more powerful, health affecting, & detrimental than daily coffee, by far, exponentially. Go on YouTube & watch the PHD presentation of "Sugar, The Bitter Truth". Very informative even to the lay person nutritionally. Am I going to start accusing others of sin or lack of holiness if they have a cookie before bed each night after dinner? No I am not (I rarely have sugar, do not drink sodas, but do have 1/2 a Lenny & Larry's Protein Cookie each night after dinner, but please save any accusations of sin or "addiction" there - and health wise I am in pretty good shape for 41). Fact is, coffee & sugar are not psychotropic. And many studies show the antioxidants, resveratrol, etc. in moderate daily coffee usage & occasional modest/moderate dry red wine consumption are beneficial health wise. And they are not "food sacrifices to idols". If someone told me either was commuted to Dagon in a satanic ritual at packaging, I would not drink them. This is what those scriptures are actually talking about in context. And oh yeah, coffee and sugar can be overused (anything can), but are also not psychotropic (mind altering). It's like the difference between Tylenol & hydrocodone. I don't like pain killers & may pray about whether or not to take them if I get something medical/dental done. But when my intercostal muscles got torn in a wreck (extremely painful injury), I took one of the strongest painkillers they make. Why? Because they prescribed it and the pain was excruciating and took my breath away (literally). But I don't take them now for no reason, obviously.

Basically, I get the Biblical admonition to the warnings of overuse/misuse of alcohol. I do. I am a holiness guy who lives a consecrated life. I do. Trust me - regular consumption of the garbage on TV (especially these days) I believe is MUCH more harmful to your spirit, the weaker brethren in the Body, your children, etc. than a 1 a month glass of red wine or a daily cup of coffee. I just don't care for going beyond the scriptures, making rules for everyone else God didn't specifically make, trumpeting one's self-righteous religious-ness from the rooftops while not so subtly using that to call those who aren't doing it exactly as you not as holy or sinful, a self-righteous accusational phariseeical spirit, etc. Once we start down this road, I have seen in my 18.5+ years as a believer where it often ends up, and it isn't good, God-glorifying, nor does it carry the fragrance of Christ. It reeks. May not be the intention of the starting place, but nevertheless, if it ends there, it stinks - bad. And it doesn't have to. We have as many warnings (& clear doctrine) in the scriptures against "not going beyond the scriptures" & "do not add to the words of this book..", & "beware of the leaven of the Pharisees..." & "when you fast (or give, or pray), so not do so as the hypocrites, who love to announce it from the rooftops and street corners..." Etc., etc. Let's not forget this thread wasn't started or carried along by believers screaming their liberty to exercise discretion & walk with the HS according to their conscience. This thread was started & has been carried along by a message that "sipping saints" is sinful. A "sip" is by definition "a little amount". This is what I am rejecting. Not Biblical warnings not to misuse alcohol. This should be fairly clear to see I think

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2016/8/15 10:55

As one of the saints of old has said, "Truth is never truth if it is on the side of oppression." To that I would add, Christianity is not of Christ if it is abusive to those "whose lifestyles and views may differ from their own."

--The Rev. Dr. Douglass M. Bailey

"Christians," those who trumpet their faith from the housetops and hurl down judgments on others below, often give Christianity a bad name. By presuming to know so precisely and literally what God's will is, they take on the self-righteous posture of the Pharisees and separate themselves to that extent from the healing Spirit of Love. "Christianity is a very good thing," George Bernard Shaw observed. "I would like to see it tried sometime."

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/8/15 11:48

Quote: "Unbelievers intrinsically know that real Christians should not smoke or drink - not even occasionally. Don't ask me why or how this is - it's just the stark reality of how this world operates."

Something about this statement bothers me but it is difficult to explain why, but I'll try.

Unbelievers love to point out those who they deem to be "hypocrites." This is because they like to take comfort in their sin, and if they can identify someone as a Christian hypocrite they have (in their mind) a good excuse for not being a Christian (because it doesn't work- it just produces hypocrites).

Alcohol and smoking are easy visible targets for hypocrite hunters. But the problem is that their belief is FALSE- a Christian who drinks or smokes may not be a hypocrite at all. So when the Church gets all legalistic ("don't drink, smoke, dance or chew or run with girls that do") to avoid appearing hypocritical- it is actually ENABLING the unsaved hypocrite and he furthers his deception.

I have probably not explained this very well- but like I said it's hard to explain.

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2016/8/15 12:48

Todd, as I have mentioned here before, we're all headed for the same destination, we're just traveling different roads. I don't want to be on any other Christians road, I want to be on the road God built for me, because he allows different encounters for me, and has me on my own unique road, to perfect his will for my life. No Christian on earth should judge me if God is allowing different things to happen in my life, to grow me and perfect me and use me, in his own unique way to work through me to bring others to Christ.

The really lost sheep in this world will never be brought to Christ by perfect Christians, they will be brought to Christ by Christians that struggle, ones they can relate to. We should never forget when we are judging one another, we're ALL sinners, and like filthy rags, so with that prospective in mind, it should have you looking closer at yourself than others.

By the way, just for the record, I don't smoke or drink, and I don't condemn others who do.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/8/15 13:06

Well said Bill.

Re: brother Bill - posted by JFW (), on: 2016/8/15 13:38

Yes well said brother!

When I was a younger (weaker) believer I still smoked weed everyday and had for 20+yrs except for when I was in prison in a 3rd world country. It was easy for me to do because I was deceived and needed deliverance from the spirit of addiction, though of course I didn't know this at the time and no amount of preaching could/did change it.

Outwardly I was a model Christian, in that if the doors were open I was not only there but showed up an hour early to pray for the service. I tithed more than 30% of my income and lived very poorly though I didn't have to. I bought cases of bibles for the mission field. I served the homeless in our community and was even active in discipleship in our church. The Lord even baptized me with the Holy Spirit during this period and I was unaware there was even such a thing as that but those are the words He Himself spoke to me when He told me to "step forth and receive that which only He could give and

no man can give, the baptism of the Holy Spirit". (Which honestly kinda freaked me out at the time).

I continued to smoke weed daily for a few more months, and while strong preaching def contributed the thing that got me was He never judged me for it or condemned me in it. For He was well aware I couldn't free myself and didn't know I needed freeing. But because He was sooo good to me in spite of it, and just kept loving me and giving me more of Himself, I one day said "you know what, I don't want to get high Jesus I like you better than getting high and I just wanna be with you". It was at this point that I realized I was addicted.", because I had to obey the sin that held me in bondage and was completely powerless to resist it. It was at this point that He said to me, "I can take that from you..." And I was immediately confronted not only with the fact of my addiction but also the truth of His power and whether I really wanted to be free. After a very brief pondering of life without weed, which itself was foreign to me, I said yes to Him and He required me to do acts of repentance (flushing the weed-thousands of dollars worth) and the things associated with its use. Then when I had completed that which He asked it broke and I was free!! the crazy thing was I didn't realize before I wasn't free!

So I say all that to say this which is in the same stream as what brother Bill has written, that it's His love that saves us. Not our good deeds, not our abstinence, not our service,... Salvation is His and His alone. So if I had died while in that state of deception would I have been saved...? Yes I believe so, without any doubt. But if I were to go back to it and become enslaved once again after having experienced the mercy and grace of God's love- I believe that it would be worse than if I'd never been delivered at all...

We (in my understanding) are only responsible to walk in the light we've been given, and therefore no believer can judge another after the flesh-

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/8/15 15:40

Jfw, that sounds like me, exactly, I'll never get over the patience of the Lord

Re: - posted by JFW (), on: 2016/8/15 16:08

Yes dear brother He is patient and merciful not wanting any to perish but all to come unto repentance:))

What was so strange for me is that instantly without even telling anyone somehow they (people I'd been smoking with) knew and disassociated themselves from me. Then a week later a friend I had been ministering to and had been coming to church with me was moving and had invited me to dinner one last time, and when I arrived to pick them up, they were out back preparing to smoke. I sat and talked with them as they watched me attentively looking for a response to their getting high. After a few minutes they asked, "ok what's going on? I mean a week ago you'd be reaching for this weed and now it's like you could care less???" I laughed and said I have never smoked and don't know what it's like to be high so why would I want it? Their eyes got huge and asked, "what do you mean! Are you high now?" I said no but the person who you knew who smoked weed was crucified with Christ, he's dead and I am a new creation and have never smoked weed a day in my life, but if you wanna smoke that's between you and the Lord and I don't mind waiting for you to finish.

I'll never forget the look on their face... they just felt so stupid and foolish and immediately put it down and said, "ok let's go eat". The entire dinner they were asking me about what happened and how I felt about it and it was a wonderful opportunity to minister to them. We haven't kept in touch as I've had lots of kids since then and don't do social media but I have a hope that the seeds that were planted will be watered and come to harvest and that Christ Jesus will be glorified in their life:)

Re: , on: 2016/8/15 18:45

Quote:
-----Quote: "Unbelievers intrinsically know that real Christians should not smoke or drink - not even occasionally. Don't ask me why or how this is - it's just the stark reality of how this world operates."

Something about this statement bothers me but it is difficult to explain why, but I'll try.

Unbelievers love to point out those who they deem to be "hypocrites." This is because they like to take comfort in their sin, and if they can identify someone as a Christian hypocrite they have (in their mind) a good excuse for not being a Christian (because it doesn't work- it just produces hypocrites).

Alcohol and smoking are easy visible targets for hypocrite hunters. But the problem is that their belief is FALSE- a Christian who drinks or smokes may not be a hypocrite at all. So when the Church gets all legalistic ("don't drink, smoke, dance or chew or run with girls that do") to avoid appearing hypocritical- it is actually ENABLING the unsaved hypocrite and furthers his deception.

I have probably not explained this very well- but like I said it's hard to explain.

Well explained. When we do something we do it for the Lord (inwardly), and not to please people (outwardly). Sometime s we do the things that people expect from us but not to please them, but to please our Heavenly Father who instructs u s to do so. That way we don't become slaves to people's judgmental opinions.

Re: - posted by Jasmine, on: 2016/8/15 19:29

@JFW

Enjoyed your testimony and how you engaged your friends!

Re: The Christian and Alcohol by John MacArthur - posted by Keswickr (), on: 2016/8/15 20:00

I'm not sure why we can't stay with what scripture says even if a biblical liberty can cause sin?

Because even if one doesn't come out and say drinking any alcohol is a sin, it has an air of condemnation.

And does anyone think God never thought about future alcohol content?

In my observation of this debate over the years it appears that many people seem so sure on what wine is when they speak about it in terms of drunkenness, but unsure when wine usage is mentioned by Paul with parameters

There are times when it seems to me that Christians try to be even more righteous than God. Drunkenness is discussed and condemned despite the drink that one uses. But if the allowance for wine (with alcohol) is biblical, is the abuse of it on us or on God? It's on us if we cause a brother to stumble but beyond that it's God's to work out. To say wine is acceptable but for drunkenness seems perfectly in line with Scripture and therefore God himself.

I'm not sure that there are many Bible believing Christians who truly believe drunkenness is not a sin. It's in the bible.

Ephesians 5:18 New King James Version (NKJV)

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

Whether Old Testament or New.... the scripture above seems to indicate that the drunkenness discussed here is from wine with enough alcohol content for drunkenness. So why the need for hair splitting theology??

Romans 14:13-23 English Standard Version (ESV)

"Do Not Cause Another to Stumble

13 Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. 14 I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. 15 For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. 16 So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. 19 So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

20 Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. 21 It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. 22 The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves."

Does alcohol content of wine matter if it has enough to allow a brother to stumble? Clearly the wine discussed here contains enough alcohol for drunkenness or it would not make a brother stumble. And are we passing judgement on someone (scripture above) who has a glass of wine and does not indulge if they interpret scripture differently?

I've read many of MacArthur's books and listened to some of his sermons. I believe that he ranks right up there with pastors who take too much liberty with their opinions.

In his book "Twelve Ordinary Men" MacArthur stated that the scripture where Jesus told Peter; "those who live by the sword, die by the sword".... was a "divine mandate" for capital punishment. He never even qualified his statement as an opinion which I think is very dangerous.

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2016/8/16 4:29

Tozsu wrote: "Well explained. When we do something we do it for the Lord (inwardly), and not to please people (outwardly). Sometimes we do the things that people expect from us but not to please them, but to please our Heavenly Father who instructs us to do so. That way we don't become slaves to people's judgmental opinions."

Amen. I was thinking exactly the same thing. Are we going to let unbelievers set the standard for how we should live? In particular should an outlaw gang be the ones who decide what a real Christian is?! Really?? Even Jesus did not allow himself to be forced to conform to the hypocrites (i.e Pharisees) opinion of what they considered a 'bad witness' when they falsely accused Him.

Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/8/16 7:04

...just a cautionary word. Someone once said when he saw a drunkard staggering along the road (I think): " But for the grace of God there go I..."

I agree we should not be men pleasers but rather God pleasers. The two are not always mutually exclusive. Paul "...became all things to all men so he could win some..."

A good reputation is priceless, both within the household of faith and with outsiders. As far as is within our power we should try and cause offence to nobody.

Ephesians 2:11-13 - Do not lose sight of the fact that you were born "Gentiles", known by those whose bodies were circumcised as "the uncircumcised". You were without Christ, you were utter strangers to God's chosen community, the Jews, and you had no knowledge of, or right to, the promised agreements. You had nothing to look forward to and no God to whom you could turn. But now, through the blood of Christ, you who were once outside the pale are with us inside the circle of God's love and purpose.

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 9:05

Amen. I was thinking exactly the same thing. Are we going to let unbelievers set the standard for how we should live? In particular should an outlaw gang be the ones who decide what a real Christian is?! Really?? Even Jesus did not allow himself to be forced to conform to the hypocrites (i.e Pharisees) opinion of what they considered a 'bad witness' when they falsely accused Him.

1 Peter 2:11-12

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. KEEP YOUR BEHAVIOR EXCELLENT among the Gentiles, so that on the things in which they slander you as evildoers, they may be caused of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

...CAPS for emphasis only. Cannot underline on smartphone..

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/8/16 9:29

Again bear you are making the leap that drinking alcohol (not to excess) somehow is un-excellent behavior. That is not a leap that should be taken.

Drinking wine was widespread in those days and a Gentile would not think a Christian drinking wine was exhibiting bad behavior- unless they were drunk of course. And Paul cautions against drunkenness.

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2016/8/16 9:33

Bear,

Thank you for this quote..

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. KEEP YOUR BEHAVIOR EXCELLENT among the Gentiles, so that on the things in which they slander you as evildoers, they may be cause of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

I notice that it says they WILL slander us in things, but we are to prove them wrong by our excellent behaviour in those things!

I am absolutely convinced that Jesus' behaviour was excellent, even though some sought to slander Him for what they wrongly considered indulging in sin.

We too should follow His example and not go out of our way to stumble people, but also not cowering in to unrighteous judgement.

Is seeking to accommodate the 'worlds' ideas of what a Christian should look like just another side of the same coin that says we need to be like the 'world' to win it??

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 9:47

This really doesn't have to be this complicated. I am sure many onlookers are scratching their heads and getting more and more confused at the convolutions within these threads.

The quote from Paul West (a moderator on this forum) was simply that in this MODERN, AMERICAN culture an unbeliever typically considers drinking and smoking to be a non-christian thing.

That was the gist of it.

He is not talking about alcohol percentage, he is not talking about drinking in Jesus time, he is not talking about drinking in Europe.

MODERN DAY, AMERICAN CULTURE, this is the context.

So, yes you are correct brother Blaine. The scripture you brought up applies perfectly. As does "avoid the appearance of evil" scripture.

Drinking and smoking may not be sin but in the eyes of the modern day, American unbeliever they are still considered as such in the same way that "living together" is still considered a way of life that Christians do not follow.

However, that said because of the "progress" made in the church in teaching "grace" even unbelievers now are getting it that christians are free in Christ to do whatever they like. Whether that is a good or a bad thing remains to be seen.

Re: Which side of this discussion do "christians" like Justin Bieber fall?, on: 2016/8/16 9:59

Although this article is not technically addressing the discussion at hand, it is worth noting that Justin Bieber would probably agree 100% with those who do not think it is important for a believer to live a life worthy of his calling.

I am not saying that anyone in this thread is saying that, but I am saying that our attitude towards these things absolutely matters. I boggles my mind that it took so long for Spurgeon to "get it" too. Why did he have to be told by parents that their kids were drinking and smoking because "Spurgeon" was, before he gave it up? Sometimes the most brilliant of minds just don't get the most simple of principles.

Justin Bieber™ is the kind of guy who parties on Saturday and attends church on Sunday and he thinks there's nothing wrong with that. The "Sorry" singer made no apologies for his wild lifestyle during a new interview, saying he can "love God" and still "have fun and enjoy" himself.

When it comes to being a good Christian or having a good time, Justin Bieber, 21, doesn't see why he can be both! Justin defended his wild lifestyle and his spirituality, arguing that his "love of God" is completely separate from how he loves to party.

"I am a Christian. I'm a believer and often people are, maybe, too conservative," Justin said during the second part of his interview with The Bert Show, released on Jan. 7. "I'm stumbling over my words because I don't want to offend anybody."

This intimate conversation about Justin's faith came after the hosts asked if Bieber was celebrating the success of his album, Purpose. Justin flashed a smile and said, "I'm 21 now and just being able to go out with your friends and be responsible and be able to have a good time and still have fun."

"I do believe you can go out and have a good time and you can enjoy yourself and get a few drinks, and you can be with girls," Justin said. "I don't think you need to be so serious about it. I think loving God is a separate thing. You can still be obedient and still love him." Justin is openly involved with the Hillsong Church and he has always stressed how important spirituality is to his life.

However, the "What Do You Mean?" singer quickly realized that some might see his deep spiritual faith being at odds with his choices to get naked while on vacation, party into the late hours of the night and date multiple women like Hailey Baldwin and Kourtney Kardashian at the same time. While Kourtney may not like how Justin bounces from one woman to another, Justin sees no problem with it at all.

"I don't think you have to love God and not go out and have fun," Justin said at the end, arguing he and anyone can go out and "enjoy yourself, as long as it's not provocative or intent or mean or evil. If you're living life based on love, then I think that's what life is."

Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/8/16 10:04

Hi Mark,

Of course, for any serious Christian who desires to live a godly life in accordance with sound teaching, such comments as made by Bieber are laughable, NO... grievous and nonsensical.

He has clearly not read the bible properly for himself and has probably been listening to those who cater to "itching" ears and tell him only what he wants to hear.

May our God preserve us from this "leaven"

In Him,

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/8/16 10:11

Bro Mark,

I find it a serious issue to say (or allude) that something that the Scripture seems to clearly records Jesus as doing, as being sinful.

Can you please explain your thoughts of why Jesus drank wine ?

add: (or allude)

add : I do not drink!! I find it grievous at the debate tactics that the teetotalers are using, there was no reason to bring Justin Bieber into this discussion.

edit : for clarity

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2016/8/16 10:24

PP,

I think that Mark's position (logic?) is that in Jesus' day it was not a sin because culturally it was accepted, whereas in modern day USA it is a sin because culturally it is unacceptable. However in other modern day countries it might not be a sin because there it is still culturally OK. Are you following this??

This opens up a whole lot of issues, like what happens when the culture insists that something is morally wrong (like spanking kids, or refusing to teach your children homosexuality is OK), do we then have to conform to what the 'culture' says is a true Christian?

Edit: As for the (straw man) Bieber post, it is not worthy of a comment!!

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/8/16 10:42

RE : /// I think that Mark's position (logic?) is that in Jesus' day it was not a sin because culturally it was accepted, whereas in modern day USA it is a sin because culturally it is unacceptable.///

But according to Scripture there must have been a stigma involved with drinking wine in that culture : because His drinking of wine was used to discredit His Ministry,
And we know from Romans 14 that there were those whom found drinking wine as offensive in that culture.

The fact is some used Jesus drinking of wine to discredit His Ministry or Authority but yet The Scriptures still record that He drank Wine anyhow.

And He points out It would not have mattered had He choose as John not to Drink Wine or eat a meal with His friends they still would have accused him as having fault as they did with John.

edit : clarity

add: I still have not seen any from the teetotal crowd answer : why (they think) Jesus drank wine ?

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 10:51

The "Christ life" is a much higher life than the earthly life of "morality", which is ever changing according to man's whims/fickleness and culture.

Sin comes from the heart, not what you eat or drink. Though, what you eat or drink may cause you to sin (Gluttony, drunkenness).

That is why Paul mentioned this, twice.

1Cor 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 OF ANY.

1Cor 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.

Paul and Peter both make a point about EXCESS of wine.

Eph 5:18 And BE NOT DRUNK WITH WINE, WHEREIN IS EXCESS; but be filled with the Spirit;

1Pet 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:

Surely, everyone understands this topic by now.

Re: - posted by JFW (), on: 2016/8/16 10:52

Btw, it is reliably reported that Spurgeon never gave up his love for cigars...

As evidenced here:

<http://www.spurgeon.org/misc/cigars.php>

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2016/8/16 11:02

"Surely, everyone understands this topic by now."

You would have thought so, you would have thought so! :))

PP, Let's hold out hope someone may answer your question!

You also bring out a good point, quote: "And He points out It would not have mattered had He choose as John not to Drink Wine or eat a meal with His friends they still would have accused him as having fault as they did with John."

You will be damned if you do and damned if you don't!

John came neither eating or drinking and they said he had a demon. The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said he is a drunk and glutton. Nothing changes!!

Re: - posted by JFW (), on: 2016/8/16 11:03

And my reasoning for making this a point is to illustrate that God is bigger than our culture and in every way supersedes it. So even tho Spurgeon caught flack for his indulgence, he nonetheless continued it and I can't imagine anyone arguing that God was not able to use him mightily to win souls even tho he smoked.

Again as has been stated by others,...the kingdom isn't in eating and drinking but in righteousness and peace.

Re: - posted by dolfan (), on: 2016/8/16 11:12

Whether Jesus drank and offended, it seems to me, is beside the point. Why? Because Jesus Himself is a rock of offense and stone of stumbling. If He had not drank any wine He would have offended.

Now, this does not answer the big question in the discussion, I admit. It is curious to me that people will cite Jesus's consumption of wine of whatever strength as a green light to drink alcohol, but will not cite his crucifixion as a green light to die to self. For reasons I will post later today, if I get time, this is the crux of the question.

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 11:14

Galatians 5:13-14 King James Version (KJV)

13Â For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

14Â For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

If this word does not condemn Bieber, I won't condemn him either.

See, it doesn't matter whether I condemn him or not, all it matters whether God condemns him. And that's between him and God.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/8/16 11:18

Dave wrote:

"This opens up a whole lot of issues, like what happens when the culture insists that something is morally wrong (like spanking kids, or refusing to teach your children homosexuality is OK), do we then have to conform to what the 'culture' says is a true Christian"

Man that's a good question. It's a rhetorical question. The answer is obvious but your logic is sound.

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 11:24

Surely everyone understands this topic by now? Amen. We are not our own, we are bought with a price. We must live as Ambassadors of Christ and our example matters, even if it is not sin. The second what I do or say becomes a stumbling block to another person THEN IT IS SIN.

It is a very, very simple subject to understand.

BTW, I am not saying Biebers alcohol partying is sinning just as I am not saying all other Christians who drink alcohol are sinning. I am saying that Biebers partying lifestyle is foolish at best. The same could be said of any Christian who drinks alcohol with no regard to how it impacts others.

Exactly the same issue, just that Bieber is a little more "out there" than most:-) So if you choose to condemn Bieber for his drinking and partying you should also condemn all other Christians for social drinking. Why should Bieber be held to a higher standard?

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/8/16 11:27

Tim,

RE: ///Whether Jesus drank and offended, it seems to me, is beside the point. Why? Because Jesus Himself is a rock of offense and stone of stumbling. If He had not drank any wine He would have offended.///

Why is Jesus a rock of offence ?

30What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. 31But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. 32Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; 33As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

I am a little confused at your logic to use the above as an argument to defend teetotalism

Add : and Jesus drinking of wine certainly is not "beside the point" in a discussion pertaining to if drinking wine in moderation is a sin.

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2016/8/16 11:33

Something I have noticed in these discussions is how folk talk about 'drinking alcohol'. This is not what is being argued for. It is drinking wine or such like that happens to have alcohol in it. This might seem like splitting hairs, but I don't think it is.

You see, if someone purposely wants to drink alcohol for that reason, then I would suggest their motive is most probably wrong. But one may drink for other reasons and accept that due to the alcohol content it needs to be treated with respect and moderation.

I eat meat that has some fat in it, but I would not eat pure fat or very fatty meat, as it is not healthy. In a similar way I would not drink a drink that was strong in alcohol. Now we have to admit that some fat enhances the flavor of the meat and some alcohol adds something to the taste of wine, but excessive alcohol can spoil the taste IMO.

So it's all about motive and knowing what is OK for you personally that you can give thanks for in faith.

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 11:40

Hypothetically speaking, let's say I can eat meat with 20% fat content—but if my brother eats meat with even 1% fat content it will kill him because he doesn't know how to stop eating. Therefore out of love for my brother I do not eat meat at all :-)

I take it those of you who have no issue with Christians drinking socially do not spend much time around alcoholics or former alcoholics?

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2016/8/16 11:44

Msrk,
Are you seriously saying you don't eat meat at all!
or are you just showing the fallacy of your argument?

Re: brother Dave - posted by JFW (), on: 2016/8/16 11:45

That is something I can say Amen to without reservation!

And as for Bieber, he is a young (immature) brother and needs not only discipling but also our prayers, as the Lord could use him due to his popularity in a big way to reach the youth of this world and be a testimony of God's mercy and grace. Just like with my situation with weed, if he continues with the Lord, Holy Spirit will convict him when the time is right and his heart has been prepared to receive a greater revelation of the truth of what Christ accomplished in the cross and how by faith he has access to the victory therein.

So could Bieb's current lifestyle be a stumbling block for other weaker Christians? Sure it can but it can also be a light and it's not our job to do anything but help this young brother in his walk with Jesus.

I read it once;
God didn't call us to be lawyers,...
Just witnesses ;)

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 11:49

Quote:
-----by awakened on 2016/8/16 11:24:16

Surely everyone understands this topic by now? Amen. We are not our own, we are bought with a price. We must live as Ambassadors of Christ and our example matters, even if it is not sin. The second what I do or say becomes a stumbling block to another person THEN IT IS SIN.

How can someone stumble when another is drinking wine in the privacy of their own home?

As far as drinking publicly, we may want to consider the verse regarding "abstaining from all APPEARANCE of evil."

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 11:50

Quote:

by awakened on 2016/8/16 11:40:59

I can eat meat with 20% fat content but if my brother eats meat with even 1% fat content it will kill him because he doesn't know how to stop eating. Therefore out of love for my brother I do not eat meat at all :-)

Out of love for your brother, maybe you should confront him about his gluttony. Isn't that what you are talking about?

Re: brother Mark - posted by JFW (), on: 2016/8/16 11:50

What does the Liberty spoken of in the NT mean to you in your daily walk?
Perhaps that's where there is a different understanding...

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/8/16 12:13

I have an uncle that got a serious issue of skin cancer, the doctors wanted to do radiation after his massive surgery which would have caused him serious issues for the rest of his life, He chose instead a very strict diet eliminating sugar red meat etc.

As to not make him feel uncomfortable, offended nor tempted when our family gets together the overall meal is for the most part designed to accommodate his diet.

It is not that we lie or pretend to be on a diet like his, It is just when he is around with him we accommodate to his diet.

Likewise on my in-laws side I have a brother in law on a strict diet that we all accommodate the meal around as not to offend or tempt.

In none of the above do we pretend to be something that we are not in order to not offend or tempt, we simply out of respect accommodate around their diets. They are not of the false impression that we are on to their strict diets all the time

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 12:19

"How can someone stumble when another is drinking wine in the privacy of their own home?"

Julius, I have never referenced private drinking, only public social drinking. Check my posts.

Re: Fletcher, on: 2016/8/16 12:24

Hi Fletcher,

I think you and others here are either unable or unwilling to get my point.

To be clear for the 100th time...I am free to drink alcohol both privately and publicly. However because I work with and live with alcoholics and former alcoholics I choose to abstain completely.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/8/16 12:26

Mark,

Do you feel that Christians should adhere to old testament dietary laws in social eating ?

edit add : The issue is not about your right to "abstain completely" I also participate in that freedom

Re: - posted by Keswickr (), on: 2016/8/16 12:42

Please read at least the last paragraph before you think about the question below. Thanks!

I'm curious as to the answer to the question below?

Does a Christian sin via biblical implication if they have a glass of wine at dinner on their honeymoon? Yes or No

If someone says "no, but it's not wise" lets assume that and stick to the question.

"KEEP YOUR BEHAVIOR EXCELLENT" bear

What does that mean bear? Define excellent behavior. Does it mean don't drink caffeine? Don't kick the dog after a bad day of work? Don't post on the forum and get paid for it by your employer? Don't be addicted to anything including the unbearable desire to post on this forum which can be a form of addiction? Is it excellent behavior engage in forum arguments at the expense of prayer, bible study, knowing God's will for one's life and doing it faithfully?

Is it more excellent behavior for one who drinks no alcohol but spends an hour on the forum at work? Or someone who had a glass of wine for dinner but never takes liberties at work for personal purposes?

I'm not trying to be sarcastic but the attributes of excellent behavior was not clearly listed or defined in the scripture. Therefore the phrase can be so subjective that it's impossible to define and therefore it makes a good "catch all" to rebut the scripture quotes that challenge MacArthur's logic as well as yours.

I'm not trying to take a formal survey, and I'm not going to keep looking to tally votes. That's not why I posted. I just think there are times we need to cut through the theology, simplify the question at hand, and honestly answer it according to what scripture says about allowance for wine without drunkenness.....not about excellent behavior.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/8/16 12:58

No one before and no one after had more excellent behavior than Jesus. He was Perfect !

And the Scripture clearly teaches that He drank wine, .

The teetotal should really ask themselves why ?

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 13:04

Quote:

-----by awakened on 2016/8/16 12:19:00

"How can someone stumble when another is drinking wine in the privacy of their own home?"

Julius, I have never referenced private drinking, only public social drinking. Check my posts.

That is why I said, "abstain from appearance of evil".

But, I certainly won't stumble if I see a believer and his wife at a restaurant having a glass of wine. Because, then I would have to judge Jesus and the Apostles. Who am I to do that?

So, if you think it falls under the "appearance of evil", then don't have wine at a restaurant. Obviously, Jesus did not regard it as an appearance of evil.

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 13:28

Julius I hope you know that we are not talking about gluttony here but the lack of self control that some have and their addictions to alcohol? Dave brought up the fat content of meat so I used it as a crude analogy for alcohol content of wine. Not a good analogy I admit.

The point is that I may be able to drink like a fish and never be affected by the alcohol in my wine. But if my drinking encourages my brother to drink who doesn't know when to stop, I believe that the law of love comes into operation and I should abstain completely.

Do you agree with the law of love whereby we abstain if our liberty causes others to stumble?

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 13:34

Obviously, there were drunkards in the days of Jesus and the apostles, yet somehow they knew the difference between a social drink and drunkenness and did not let drunkards keep them from having a social drink. This is difficult for western Christians to deal with.

There is no prohibition of wine in the NT.

1 Timothy 3:8

Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, NOT GIVEN TO MUCH WINE, not greedy of filthy lucre;

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;

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 13:43

"So, if you think it falls under the "appearance of evil", then don't have wine at a restaurant. Obviously, Jesus did not regard it as an appearance of evil."

Julius, I have no idea what you are talking about...who are these people at the restaurant???

I am talking about alcoholics and former alcoholics that I live, work and minister to. And I am talking about my own family members who have fallen into sin through drug and alcohol abuse!!!

I don't know whether it is an innocent misunderstanding or a lack of sincerity on your part but I find your line of reasoning/questions to come across almost as a diversion to take me away from the heart of what I'm trying to communicate over and over again.

PP also, these questions are a diversion. Why does it matter why Jesus supposedly drank wine? How would I know? Maybe He drank it because it would have been highly offensive to refuse it at the homes of these sinners? I honestly don't know now but I feel confident that if He lived in America and was ministering to alcoholics and drug abusers He would refuse drugs and alcohol when offered to Him. That's my opinion and I am sure you all disagree. Each to his own.

Perhaps someone else out there will read this thread and understand what I am trying to say but this endless discussion seems to be becoming unfruitful in my opinion. So I think I have said enough and will leave you all to it from here.

God bless you guys!!!

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 13:47

Mark,

Unquestionably, if you are around alcoholics, don't drink alcohol. I agree with you. No brainer.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/8/16 13:50

The Baptist taught me the teetotalism views.

What I learned and continue to learn by people with such views is that they trust their views and their traditions over the Scriptures.

I confronted one of my Sunday school teachers with the Scriptures after he had made some teetotalism statements, He agreed with me of what the Scripture says about the subject.

His response to me was basically though he had to admit that the Scriptures taught one way, He was going to respect his seat as a Sunday School teacher and teach it the way that the church expected.

It took many little realities like this for me to realize that many Christians do not read or trust the Scriptures for themselves and thus their interpretations can not be trusted, unfortunately many trust the interpretations of their circles and their traditions over the Scriptures themselves.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/8/16 14:03

RE: ///PP also, these questions are a diversion. Why does it matter why Jesus supposedly drank wine? ///

That is the problem Mark : there is no "supposedly" to it and it is not conjecture as Greg insisted, It is more than clear.

look closely at Luke 7:33 ,34 , Mat. 11:19, John 2

The context in all cases clearly proves without argument that it was not grape juice

It is an issue about being honest with what the Scriptures say.

add : and it is about not claiming something as wrong when The Bible clearly does not claim it as wrong and clearly points out that Jesus Himself participated in.

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2016/8/16 14:17

Jeff: I am sorry. I have been away from the computer for a day and wow...the posts are numerous. I wanted to reply to your answers to my questions. Please don't take my comments as condemning of you personally.

I once went on a cruise with a brother because he won it for sales and his wife could not go. The insurance company he sold for had a bottle of champagne in the stateroom when we arrived on the ship. He is a believer, and we have walked together with God for years. He asked me if his having a glass would offend me. He explained that he wanted to honor the gesture by having one glass, but if it would offend me, he would abstain. I told him I was not offended, he had one glass, and he never touched it again.

If I were a German Christian, raised in that culture, I am sure I might have a glass of wine or beer occasionally. But I am an American Christian in a culture where unbelievers see drinking and smoking as inherently un-Christian activities. I don't want there to be any chance that my liberty would cause one of them to miss out on eternity.

I also deal with many men and women who, when they come to Christ, must be delivered of bondages to drugs, alcohol, nicotine, etc.. If one of them were to ask me if I, as a believer, partake of alcohol, I want to be able to say no. I feel I have a good reason for this. My liberty could encourage one of them to re-enter an addiction that God has freed them from. I saw this happen in another church and have watched a man who I know had a call of ministry on his life totally turn from God. It all began when one brother, in his liberty, encouraged this man that he too was free to partake of alcohol.

Brother, if you feel you have the freedom to partake, I do not condemn you in any way shape or form. I am just posting what, in my opinion, is best practice for an American believer. I cannot, nor will I try to judge the motive of your heart. I believe it is sincere and set toward pleasing God. Happy is the man in the thing which he allows.

Hope that clarifies. Hope you did not think I was trying to come against you personally with my posts.

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 14:35

"if you are around alcoholics, don't drink alcohol"

I am sure you do not mean that we are to hide our drinking from them when we are around them but drink openly with our non-alcoholic friends?

Personally I believe it has to go beyond this. It has to be total abstinence - for me. My rationale is that when I am ministering to people who struggle with drug and alcohol abuse how can I tell them to abstain if I don't? I cannot pull that one off, I cannot drink in any measure and then counsel others to abstain. So I choose to be a total abstainer. This is the position of most on these threads if you read slowly and take notes.

And by the way, almost everyone I meet these days who are unsaved or away from the Lord are struggling with alcohol and drugs of some description - especially young people. It is an epidemic.

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 14:55

I have no problem with your personal beliefs.

But, we cannot change scripture or the meaning of them to fit our personal beliefs? Where would that end?

I'm sure you do not judge or condemn those who "have faith to themselves", in private.

Rom 14:22 Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.

You don't allow it for yourself not because you don't have faith, but because you preach total abstinence. I don't do that. I don't preach total abstinence because I don't see where the scriptures teach that. I would teach former alcoholics, moderation which is more realistic. Just like I would teach former gluttons, moderation. I would not tell former gluttons to stop eating. Sometimes we create laws (total abstinence) that people cannot keep. If an alcoholic and glutton were delivered then they were delivered. I don't believe alcoholism and gluttony are physical diseases but spiritual conditions.

Can one who "is not given to much wine", minister to former alcoholics and teach them moderation and how not to be gi

ven to much wine? Of course they can. But if you teach total abstinence you should live by it. You can't teach one thing and live another. I do agree with that.

Do we stop having "second helpings" and dessert around former gluttons because we are afraid we will make them stumble? Seems to me if they are going to stumble, it is not because you had a second helping or dessert. Those who fall into sin can always find someone to blame their lack of self-control on.

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 15:20

"I would teach former alcoholics, moderation which is more realistic."

I just asked my former alcoholic friend to comment on your statement. He loves the Lord and left rehab 3 weeks ago and is doing great!

He says, no offense but you are very naive and have no idea what you are talking about. It is an impossible premise to tell an alcoholic to drink in moderation. Talk to anyone who works with alcoholics and drug abusers and they will tell you the exact same thing. And if an ex-alcoholic needs to drink alcohol so badly in moderation then they are still an alcoholic and dependent on it.

Total abstinence is not a law created for my brother, it is decision that he has made because he knows the dangers to himself. He believes that by the power of Christ within that he will be able to maintain total abstinence for the rest of his life.

And about gluttony. There is no correlation at all with these two issues. One must eat or they will die, so a case for total abstinence of food is of course ludicrous. But we do not need booze to survive so it is perfectly acceptable to totally abstain from alcohol. And I know that my friend can do this because He can do all things through Christ who lives in him. And for the record it is his choice, no-one told him he had to do this, he has been a drunk for 25 years and is never going back, not even for one drop. I believe him!!!

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2016/8/16 15:20

My great grandfather was once approached by another minister who had been listening to some very odd doctrines. This man told my great grandfather that he was offended because my grandfather drank coffee. He said it was strong drink and Christians should not do that. Realistically my great grandfather should have told this man to get over it. This man was supposedly mature and should have known scripture better. But my grandfather was motivated by his love for this man and actually gave up coffee entirely. One day this minister died. The next day, my great grandfather told his wife to fix him a pot of coffee. She said, "I thought you gave up coffee." He said, "As long as my brother was offended I gave up coffee for his sake, but he is dead now and I can no longer offend him, so fix me some coffee."

Now obviously they were working off the wrong definition of the word offend. To offend means to make to stumble, not to make upset or angry. But still, the point is that one man gave up his liberty for the sake of another man's good.

This is the Biblical motivation in all that we do. Charity! We are to have a self-sacrificial love for others that goes beyond our own personal liberty. Yet, we are not to judge one another for our liberty. If it is clearly black or white in scripture, then we call it black or white. In all other things, liberty tempered by charity and obedience to the Holy Spirit in our own lives.

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 15:25

No offense to him, but I was a former alcoholic in the Navy. God can deliver you!!

I have never taught an alcoholic to drink in moderation. The scriptures only teach not to be drunk or "given to much wine". Are the Apostles naive?

You will get different answers from different people who used to be alcoholics. Some, like me who have been delivered feel no compelling draw towards alcohol.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/8/16 15:28

Mark- no Christian in his right Holy Spirit filled mind would ever knowingly drink in front a recovering alcoholic brother. The idea is absurd, and any Christian who would knowingly do so is questionably converted.

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 15:35

Amen, TMK.

As far as I can see the Early Church taught moderation and obviously drunkards got saved.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, NOR DRUNKARD S, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. AND SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 15:43

Quote:

by proudpapa on 2016/8/16 13:50:44

The Baptist taught me the teetotalism views.

What I learned and continue to learn by people with such views is that they trust their views and their traditions over the Scriptures.

I confronted one of my Sunday school teachers with the Scriptures after he had made some teetotalism statements, He agreed with me of what the Scripture says about the subject.Â

His response to me was basically though he had to admit that the Scriptures taught one way, He was going to respect his seat as a Sunday School teacher and teach it the way that the church expected.

It took many little realities like this for me to realize that many Christians do not read or trust the Scriptures for themselves and thus their interpretations can not be trusted, unfortunately many trust the interpretations of their circles and their traditions over the Scriptures themselves.

I agree with this post.....And I wonder why is it so?

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/8/16 15:43

Julius had wrote : /// I don't preach total abstinence because I don't see where the scriptures teach that. I would teach former alcoholics, moderation which is more realistic. Just like I would teach former gluttons, moderation.///

Mark wrote : ///He says, no offense but you are very naive and have no idea what you are talking about. It is an impossible premise to tell an alcoholic to drink in moderation.///

I did not understand Julius to be implying that we should teach former alcoholics that they needed to continue to drinking in moderation but simply we can be honest with what the Scripture says on the subject.

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 15:57

Amen, PP.

The Early Church understood that self-control was one of the fruits of the Spirit.

Is it possible that they taught moderation because they believed in the power of God to deliver?

If people are breaking free of alcohol on their own and not by the power of God, it is only a matter of time before they get worn out and return to it.

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 16:17

"No offense to him, but I was a former alcoholic in the Navy. God can deliver you!! "

Brother, no offence taken because GOD HAS DELIVERED HIM TOO, praise the Lord!

That is the whole point. He has been delivered from the need for alcohol and does not need to go back to it ever again. Christ has set him free. Isn't that awesome, what a powerful message of hope for alcoholics, that they can be powerfully set free and never, ever have to touch the stuff again!!!

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 16:22

Yes, that is a powerful message. And there will be alcohol around us all the time as we live in this world. At work, public events, etc, etc. If we fall of the wagon every time we see someone drink I would suggest we were never delivered.

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 16:46

I pray he will never fall off the wagon ever again, but he is taking steps to ensure that will never happen again either. As Paul says, "I buffet my body", which to my brother means that he can and will completely abstain. In your analogy this means sitting as far away from the edge of the wagon that the likelihood of falling off is remote. Never say never though.

But common sense and wisdom tells us to completely abstain if we have been a drunk and ruined our life and the lives of countless others for many decades. Its just not worth it.

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 17:13

Mark,

People should follow the Spirit. If they do they will walk in love and not cause anyone to stumble much less themselves. Hypotheticals, will always end in "gotchas". Remember, that Jesus always followed the Spirit in that which he ate or drank. Yes, let us all know ourselves and use wisdom on how we walk in this life.

Are we good?

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 17:43

Brother no offence but your advice to former alcoholics to "follow the Spirit" on this one is foolish. A former drunkard should stay off the bottle period. That is my advice and I believe it is sound and common sense. You seem to be digging your heels in and continuing to spiritualize this issue out the wazoo so we are probably not going to agree on this anytime soon. Blessings brother.

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2016/8/16 17:59

We should keep this in prospective on all threads, WE cannot make or expect anyone see things our way, or make anyone change, only GOD can change folks. I know there are a lot of valid points from everyone here, and some points made over and over, so why do we carry on like this, until strife sets in? One thing that is accomplished here on thread like this, old Bluefoot is rolling on the floor laughing.

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 18:01

I'm with you, Bill.

Over and out.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2016/8/16 18:06

Quote:

-----The context in all cases clearly proves without argument that it was not grapejuice

Agreed brother it was probably .5-2% alcoholic wine which is very low alcohol concentration compared to wines today. So three glasses in bible times = 1 or less in our times.

That is the point in the John MacArthur message:

The Christian and Alcohol by John MacArthur

<https://youtu.be/thXe-rtpl6U>

To seek liberty with modern alcohol how it is produced is dangerous and much more moderation must be had and wisdom shown.

Re: brother Bill - posted by JFW (), on: 2016/8/16 18:25

Totally agree with your post-

Re: - posted by Keswickr (), on: 2016/8/16 18:39

"To seek liberty with modern alcohol how it is produced is dangerous and much more moderation must be had and wisdom shown." Greg

Brother I think everyone can agree on this because what you say is very wise, and because it is not a scripture quote.

Scripture addresses two things: drunkenness and wine itself. When scripture says "do not be given into much wine" it is giving the advice you are giving about moderation. Advice we most will agree. The question many raise now and have repeatedly raised historically on here is whether or not "wine without drunkenness" is sinful. The scripture to "not give into much wine" is a caution then and now regardless of alcohol content.

But people are not making this the argument. They are debating whether or not drinking wine (despite alcohol content) without drunkenness is sinful according to scripture. And they are doing this because it seems MacArthur and others are crafting a message that comes close to saying that it is indeed sinful to drink wine without drunkenness. No theologian or pastor will ever settle this debate by admonishing Christians to be careful with alcohol or abstain from it. It will only be settled by concluding unequivocally what scripture says about wine intake without drunkenness. Unfortunately it will never likely be concluded to anyone's satisfaction. God bless.

Re: Not a laughing matter, on: 2016/8/16 18:41

"One thing that is accomplished here on thread like this, old Sluefoot is rolling on the floor laughing."

And just like that you minimize everything that has been said. Your suggestion that satan is rolling in laughter about this very important matter is wrong.

On the contrary I think he is shaking in his boots because truth is going forth. "The weapons of our warfare are not the weapons of the world. Instead, they have divine power to demolish strongholds."

It is important to be very clear about these matters otherwise we breed confusion in the minds of the young and the weak. You would think that it is common sense for former alcoholics to abstain or pastors working with alcoholics. Not so. We just love our liberties that much. There are pastors who work with alcoholics who I have seen posting their liberties in this area on social media. Absolute foolishness.

So I for one will stand my ground on this. I may be one against many but I really don't care what you or anyone else thinks of me and what names you call me. And I really don't care if you think the devil is laughing at me either. All I care about is those who are bound in Satan's grip of alcoholism. I want to see it smashed and broken off the lives of people in this country, especially the young.

The forces that are arraigned against them are immense. It is almost impossible for these people to get free. Let us not side with darkness in any way, even ignorantly and never let it be implied of us that we were not serious about the deliverance of those who are bound up.

Remember, these forums are public...we do not know who is listening in on these conversations. May the Lord help those who are struggling with these addictions today, by the Power of His glorious might!!!

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2016/8/16 19:00

Mark, I'm not minimizing anything, this is the second 10 page thread on this same subject, if you feel you have been successful in getting your views/opinions out, why are you still posting here? I'll answer that, you haven't been successful, why? because this thread is in the strife mode now. Also, I am sticking to my guns on Satan laughing, but I do respect your opinion, not on the thread, but on what Satan is doing. I'm not personally here to change anyone's views or opinions, why? BECAUSE THAT'S GOD'S JOB. Some seem to feel lead to be doing GOD'S job, well that's between you and God. Why is more than one opinion/view needed from any one person on this thread, unless they are trying to stand on the rooftop and judge the sinners below. We SHOULD be preaching this message in the streets, not to Christians on a forum, that already have the Holy Spirit leading them, maybe some are trying to override the Spirit's lead.

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 19:19

Mark,

To answer your question earlier: I am a former alcoholic from a long line of them, but I am totally delivered for almost 20 years, & my wife never was, & any former alcoholics I may know aren't at the table in the restaurant when me and my wife have a somewhat rare date night - FYI.

TwayneB,

I also left this for a couple/few days. No offense taken at all whatsoever, so don't worry at all about that! ðŸ˜Š

God Bless,

Jeff

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/8/16 19:20

RE : ///Agreed brother it was probably .5-2% alcoholic wine which is very low alcohol concentration compared to wines today. So three glasses in biblical times = 1 or less in our times.

That is the point in the John MacArthur message:///

John Mac says at 55:12 "The Wine then in Biblical times could have well have been unintoxicating from a syrup base or marginally intoxicating because its fermentation had been diluted so much in the mixture with water."

than he will go on to say that : the level of alcohol would be between 2.5 and 2.75 which he then says is well under the 3.

2 percent necessary to be classified as an intoxicating drink.

I do not know about what Pliny the Elder may have said but what I do know is that the wine that was being drunk at the wedding in John 2 had intoxicating effects because the text says it did :

John 2:10

And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well (((drunk))), then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

The well "drunk" methuo means intoxicated in the Greek

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 20:49

Brother Bill,

This is a discussion forum and we should never feel ashamed for standing up for what we believe. That said I agree with you, if it resorts to name calling or nastiness or contention then it has gone too far. I didn't see any of that but if you perceived that to be the case then I apologize for any part I played in strife or contention, to you and the others, particularly Julius.

Re: - posted by Lysa (), on: 2016/8/16 20:57

Quote:

-----by jeffmar

I am a former alcoholic from a long line of them...

Me too, Jeff. Someone sent a tweet in on The Tonight Show that said, "My dad told me that alcoholism didn't run in our family, it gallops."

My youngest son gave up drugs and took up alcohol just as strong but he couldn't help but agree with that Tweet. His name is Samuel if anyone cares to help me pray for him, he is 24.

God bless,

Lisa

Re: , on: 2016/8/16 21:32

Quote:

-----by awakened on 2016/8/16 20:49:46

Brother Bill,

This is a discussion forum and we should never feel ashamed for standing up for what we believe. That said I agree with you, if it resorts to name calling or nastiness or contention then it has gone too far. I didn't see any of that but if you perceived that to be the case then I apologize for any part I played in strife or contention, to you and the others, particularly Julius.

Hey there Mark,

I'm cool, just moving on. May the Lord bless everyone on this thread as you continue to work thru these things with respect and love. I personally don't think threads should be locked as we all have the capacity to self moderate and work through difficult subjects. I'll keep reading but I don't have much more to say.

Re: Julius, on: 2016/8/16 21:37

Bless you Julius, I am moving on too. I appreciate you very much brother...love to you in our Lord!

Re: - posted by Keswickr (), on: 2016/8/16 22:09

"His name is Samuel if anyone cares to help me pray for him, he is 24". Lysa

I do.....and I will!! God bless.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2016/8/16 22:18

Saints,

we will end the discussion on this point. We encourage those who have not watched the message to watch here:

The Christian and Alcohol by John MacArthur
<https://youtu.be/thXe-rtpl6U>

Thankful for wise and thoughtful posts in this thread as we do need to consider the seriousness of the this problem in the body of Christ and lack of clarity from preachers in the land.

this thread is locked.