

What about Christians and Alcohol?

Leviticus 10,9-11

1 Peter 2, 9

INTRODUCTION

- The tragic incident of Nadab and Abihu , sons of Aaron: Consumed by the fire from heaven
- God's instruction: " You and your sons are not to drink wine or other fermented drink whenever you go into the tent of meeting".

WHY ARE THIS INSTRUCTION?

- They are called to distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean.
- They are teachers of the children of Israel.

DEBATE ON ALCOHOL: POSITIVE REFERENCES TO WINE IN THE SCRIPTURE

- Wine was included in the offerings made to the Lord (Num 15, 5-7).
- Wine, “gladdens the heart of man” (Ps 104, 15).
- Wine is a medicine and disinfectant. (Luke 10, 31; 1 Tim 5, 23).
- Wine in celebrations and ceremonies (John 2, 1-11, Mark 14:23-25; 1Cor 11:25: Luke 22, 17-18).

CONCLUSION 1

- The Bible does not condemn the drinking of alcohol, it only condemns drunkenness.
- The Bible commend self-control, not abstinence with regards to alcohol
- The Bible recognizes that wine can be medicinal
- Some church leaders, pastors support moderation rather than total abstinence
- Not everybody who takes a drink gets drunk
- Those who drink moderately still retain self-control
- Refusing to drink may be considered anti-social

Condemnation in the scripture

- A sin (Deut 21,20; 1 Cor 6,9-10, Galatians 5,19-21).
- Proverbs 23
- Link with prostitution (Hosea 4,11)
- Noah and Lot (Gen 9,20-22, Gen 19,31-36).
- Drunkenness and physical injuries (Prov 23,29-35; Prov 20, 1).
- Intoxicating drink affects judgement (Isaiah 28,7; Prov 20,1).

CONCLUSION 2

- The Bible warns us about the dangers associated with alcohol
- Priests were forbidden to drink any alcohol before entering the tent of meeting (Lev 10,5-9)
- Those who have taken a Nazirite vow were forbidden to take wine while their vow lasted (Num 6,3; 6,20, Judg 13,7; Luke 1,15).
- They remind the Recabite story in Jeremiah 35,1

- Drinking can cause others to stumble (Rom 14,21, (Hab 2,15).
- The Bible teaches self-control and restraint (Tit 2,2; 2,6 ; Gal 5,23.
- Drinking is a slippery slope.
- Alcohol kills.
- Drinking wrecks families, breaks up marriages, and leads to the neglect of children, whose lives may be ruined.

POSITION OF THE CHURCH

- We are a chosen generation, elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a kingdom of priests.
- What are distinguishing marks of the people of God which separate them from the world?
- The alcohol seller gets richer, but the buyer destroys himself and becomes poor.
- Matthew 26, 29: I tell you, I will never again drink this wine until the day I drink the new wine with you in my fathers' Kingdom