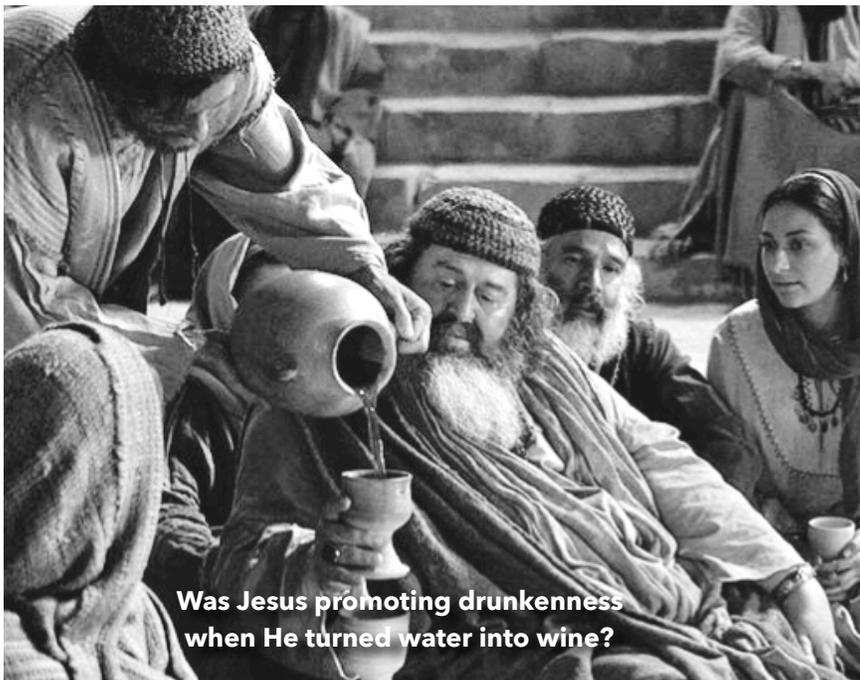


Sober Saints

GODLY GUIDELINES



Dr. Al Gossan Jr., Executive Pastor • Fall 2017 • www.thebelieverschurch.com



Was Jesus promoting drunkenness when He turned water into wine?



Did Paul condone inebriation when taking Communion?

Not according to *1 Corinthians 11:20-22*.

Not provable according to *John 2:1-11*.

CAUTIONS

We must not neglect scriptural warnings regarding the sin of drunkenness. God has amply admonished us—in both Old and New Testaments—regarding over-indulging in alcohol.

FOR THOSE WHO...

▶ **have a weakness for alcohol: ABSTENTION**

"...drunkenness, wild parties...anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the kingdom of God."
— *Galatians 5:21*

▶ **are able to cautiously partake: MODERATION**

"Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit."
— *Ephesians 5:18* (See also: *Romans 13:13-14*)

▶ **respect others' weaknesses: DISCRETION**

"It is better not to...drink wine, or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble." — *Romans 14:21*

▶ **have health issues: MEDICATION**

"...You ought to drink a little wine for the sake of your stomach because you are sick so often."
— *1 Timothy 5:23*

With concern for the temptations of the weak—as well as the potential enticement of innocent children—we respectfully ask that no alcoholic beverages (or illegal drugs) be included in our church-related gatherings. Also, that those who might partake are careful to avoid promoting drinking (both personally and on Social Media).



"Watch out! Don't let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness..."
– Jesus, in Luke 21:34

DID YOU KNOW?

Naturally fermented wine mentioned in Scripture is only between 10-14% alcohol content.

Modern distilled and processed drinks (between 40-50% alcohol...aka: 80-100 proof) did not exist in Bible times.

Jesus said He was accused of being a drunkard—an UNTRUE accusation by overly strict religious leaders.

MORE CAUTIONS

Sober warnings regarding sobriety:

▶ Old Testament

"What sorrow for those who are heroes at drinking wine and boast about all the alcohol they can hold."
– Isaiah 5:22 (See also: 28:1-8 and Habakkuk 2:5.)

"Wine produces mockers; alcohol leads to brawls. Those led astray by drink cannot be wise."
– Proverbs 20:1

"Who has anguish? Who has sorrow? Who is always fighting? Who is always complaining? Who has unnecessary bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? It is the one who spends long hours in the taverns, trying out new drinks. Don't gaze at the wine, seeing how red it is, how it sparkles in the cup, how smoothly it goes down. For in the end it bites like a poisonous snake; it stings like a viper. You will see hallucinations, and you will say crazy things. You will stagger like a sailor tossed at sea, clinging to a swaying mast. And you will say, 'They hit me, but I didn't even know it when they beat me up. When will I wake up so I can look for another drink?'"
– Proverbs 23:29-3

▶ New Testament

"...You are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard or cheats people. Don't even eat with such people."
– I Corinthians 5:11

"Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or who commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God."
– I Corinthians 6:9-10



JESUS & DRINKING

"The Son of Man...drinks, and you say, 'He's...a drunkard!' But wisdom is shown to be right by the lives of those who follow it." – Luke 7:34-35

USE vs. ABUSE

According to the Bible:

- Drinking is cautiously permitted.
- Drunkenness is strictly prohibited.

Any partaking should be with caution!

PAUL on CHURCH LEADERS: *"...must not be heavy drinkers..."* – 1 Timothy 3:1-8