

Weird Flex But Okay Part 6

I'm Wasted

Proverbs 20:1

Memory Verses: Proverbs 20:1

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

Proverbs 30:32 says, "if you have been foolish, exalting yourself, or if you have been devising evil, put your hand on your mouth." If you brag about being a fool that's a weird flex, but okay! Fools have all kinds of weird flexes. They brag about all the wrong things. Over the past month and a half we've seen them brag about shunning wisdom, brag about being evil, brag about being unwilling to listen to wise counsel, brag about making their mother's cry, and brag about saying whatever comes into their brains. Instead of bragging about these foolish things, they should instead shut their mouths and change their ways.

But they can't. Again, this week we see them flexing on some more ridiculous foolishness. **Proverbs 20:1** says, "wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise." Simply put, it is foolish to be led astray by alcohol. It is unwise to drink too much, to wander into substance abuse, and to blatantly sin by becoming drunk. Like it or not, alcohol is a huge part of our society, and a huge problem in our culture and it must be addressed. And, I know that this may be a sensitive subject but Proverbs has a few things to say about the foolishness of alcohol consumption and substance abuse and I think it would be negligent of me as your pastor if we didn't at least give it a look.

I've also noticed that it is not just a problem, but that this problem is celebrated. It is not uncommon for someone to brag about how much they drink and how often they are drunk. Even when I was in high-school kids would come to school flaunting how wasted they were. Like some badge of honor many people unashamedly admit that their weekend plans are to get wasted. In no small part our society lives for the weekend and many weekends involve binging on alcohol or drugs. The Bible says that this is foolish. It's not godly, it's not God honoring, and it clearly shows a lack of fear in God. It's also not uncommon to see substance abuse celebrated on social media. Look at some of these tweets. The point is simple, a fool brags about being high, being drunk, being wasted... they may think it's cool but it is a weird flex.

So, for those this morning struggling with substance abuse or addiction, there is hope in the wisdom of Christ. For those who socially drink but often find they take it too far and get drunk, it's time to repent and find wisdom in the Word of God. And for those who like to use

recreational drugs like Marijuana, it's time to turn from your foolishness and return to the wisdom found in God.

But you may say, it's not a sin to drink. And you would be right. But is it always wise? This morning I want us to focus on the dangers of alcohol and drugs while also wrestling with the fact that alcohol isn't forbidden for believers and is in some case prescribed. When it comes to this particular subject we must find a balance of staying within God's will and if choosing to partake doing so with moderation. Wisdom is often finding that middle ground. But, let's be honest. That is hard. That is difficult. And if it can't be done, then it should be done away with. The main point this morning is simple, **When alcohol or drugs can not be handled with wisdom, the wise thing to do would be to not handle them at all!**

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see here today, and perhaps the most obvious, is that... **Getting Drunk Or High Is Foolish Because It Is Rebellion To The Spirit of God.** In short, getting drunk is a sin. Getting drunk on alcohol or high on drugs is a sin. In case you didn't know **Ephesians 5:18** says, "and do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit." There are two very important things to note in this verse. One, getting drunk or high is debauchery and when God calls something debauchery, well that means he's against it and that makes it a sin. It is rebellion against God to get drunk. And because I can hear you thinking, yes, we include all substances that can make you high in that as well. Why? Because of the second thing that this verse tells us. Instead of being inebriated we must be filled with the Spirit. Being filled with the Spirit is just another way of saying that you are yielding to the spirit. When you are drunk or high your mental capacities are changed and your inhibitions are removed. When you are drunk or high you are no longer yielding to the what the Spirit of God inside you is telling you to do but what the flesh inside you is telling you to do. When many of these verses speak to the effects of alcohol as being "drunk" they are speaking of the same chemical reaction that makes one high and outside their normal mindset. Alcohol and weed or any other drug that causes inebriation is a substance which people need to handle very carefully. When they don't handle it carefully they get high or drunk and fall into debauchery which is a sin! Again, **Proverbs 20:1** says, "wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise." It is very easy to become drunk. It is very easy for one drink to become two, to become three, and before you even know it, drunk. This is why alcohol is very dangerous for those of us who love God. If we want to obey him, and know that becoming drunk is a sin, then if we can't maintain sobriety we should abstain, plain and simple.

There is another issue to consider here as well. **Isaiah 5:11** says, "woe to those who rise early in the morning that they may run after strong

drink, who tarry late into the evening as wine inflames them.” Let's say that you think, as many Christians claim, that you can drink and not become drunk, but you are always thinking about drinking. Is that godly? No. The phrase here is woe. Woe, like debauchery, is not good. It would indicate a warning of possible or probable sin. If you can't wake up without thinking about getting a drink. If you can't enjoy dinner without a drink. If you can't go to sleep without a drink. If every social gathering must include alcohol then there probably is a problem.

Another issue to discuss here is found in **Isaiah 5:22** says, “woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink.” If you brag about being able to hold your liquor or drink others under the table or make the best cocktail, well, according to the Bible that's a weird flex. And let's be honest. If you are always thinking about drinking or if you are always bragging about drinking, but you say you don't have a problem with getting drunk... it stretches the fabric of credulity a little too far. In short, the Bible is saying that those who brag about such things tend fall into the sin of drunkenness. The point that **Ephesians 5:18** is trying to make here is that instead of being drunk or high or needing those things in your life, why don't you want his Spirit or need his Spirit more? **Instead of filling the void in your life with the high of alcohol or drugs, fill it with Christ! Fill it with the euphoria of a relationship with Jesus. Fill it with the overwhelming satisfaction of being in his presence and living according to his will.** Praise him, worship him, study his word, find life in the goodness of God instead of a bottle. And by all means don't rebel against him by continuing to indulge in drunkenness. Don't be foolish, wine is a mocker. **When alcohol or drugs can not be handled with wisdom, the wise thing to do would be to not handle them at all.**

The second thing we need to see today is that... **Being Addicted To Alcohol Or Drugs Is Foolish Because It Derails God's Plans For Your Life.** Of course this statement should come as no surprise to us. We all know someone who drugs or alcohol has derailed. We all know someone who has become addicted to substance abuse and it has become the greatest struggle of their lives. This is why so many alcoholics or drug addicts who break the habit still claim to be addicts; because they know how fragile they are and how easy it would be to fall back into it again. They are never out of the woods or clear of danger.

Proverbs 23:29-35 gives us a picture of what it is like to be addicted to alcohol or drugs. It says, “who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who tarry long over wine; those who go to try mixed win. Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. In the end it bites like a serpent and

stings like an adder. Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart utter perverse things. You will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, like one who lies on the top of a mast. “They struck me,” you will say, “but it was not hurt” they beat me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake? I must have another drink.” The wounds of alcohol or drugs never leave them and the desire for alcohol or drugs never leaves them alone! Once substance addiction has set in your life is in ruins and the chaos never seem to cease. There is nothing luxurious or appealing about being addicted to alcohol or drugs. Nothing.

Proverbs 21:17 says, “whoever loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.” One of the biggest ways that addiction ruins your life is that it makes you unable to earn a living. No one will hire an addict. No one can trust an addict. An addict never has any money. Addicts become beggars. Addicts become poor. Addicts become homeless. **This is not the life God wants for you. God has created you to thrive, not simply survive.** Remember what **Jeremiah 29:11** says, “for I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” This is the complete opposite of the life of a drunkard.

You say, well that will never be me. If drink consistently you are in danger of drunkenness. If you tend to dabble with drunkenness, you are in danger of becoming a drunkard. As they say, if you play with fire, eventually you will get burnt. **Proverbs 23:20-21** is interesting. It says, “be not among drunkards or among gluttonous eaters of meat, for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and slumber will clothe them with rags.” Notice the warning again is that alcohol addiction leads to poverty. But it is included with gluttony. This lends weight to the idea that alcohol in and of itself is not evil, just as meat is not evil. But an over abundance of anything is sin! You say, there is no way I would ever become a drunk, but what about your relationship with food? If you are prone to over eat, or if you are addicted to certain types of foods then you have the type of personality which leads to other addictions. Some call it an addictive personality. In short, very few of us are beyond the danger of addiction and we all must be wary of it in our lives whether it be alcohol, drugs, or even food! **When alcohol or drugs can not be handled with wisdom, the wise thing to do would be to not handle them at all.**

Still there is another thing we must look at this morning, not because I want to but because I have to be faithful to scripture. **There is A Place For Alcohol And Drugs In The Life Of A Godly Person Who Has Self Control.** First, please hear my heart. I am not trying to speak any opinion. I am only trying to share what the Bible says on this issue. Secondly my thoughts on this are not beyond correction. If anyone can present a good point as to why this is not true I am open to rebuke. Thirdly, just because

these verses give leeway in matters of alcohol and drugs, it does not give you an excuse to indulge or live recklessly. I mean, have you not been listening to the rest of the message?

With that being said, the Bible does not forbid the use of alcohol or drugs in all circumstances and in some cases actually prescribes it! It is prescribed for our pleasure. **Psalm 104:15** says, "wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart." **Ecclesiastes 9:7** says, "go eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do." Also, if you remember, Jesus, in **John 2:1-11**, turned water into wine at a wedding for the enjoyment of the celebration. We cannot ignore these verses. God has created wine, God has created alcohol, and he created it for our pleasure. Wine can make one happy and take the edge off. **In moderation, and within God's design, alcohol is not a bad thing.** Within God's rules its a good thing. I like to make the comparison between alcohol and sex. Sex within God's design is a good thing. When we indulge in sex outside of God's design we sin. In the same way, alcohol within God's design can be seen as a good thing, but when we indulge in alcohol outside of God's will, being drunk or addicted, then we are in sin!

And it is prescribed for medicinal use. **1 Timothy 5:23** says, "no longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments." In this case alcohol can be used to cure certain ailments. This why alcohol is in many medications and is used to clean wounds. **Proverbs 31:6** says, "give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress." In this case alcohol is used as a pain killer. God doesn't want us to suffer when he has given us means to ease pain. This is where many other medicines come in. Oxy is good. Oxy addiction is not. This is also where I would suggest weed could be seen as good. Weed only serves two purposes. To get high which is sin, and to kill pain which is not a sin. If it is used as a pain killer then it would be used in accordance with **Proverbs 31:6**. If we are being Biblically honest and balanced we must agree that according to scripture, alcohol is not bad in and of itself, and in some cases is prescribed. However, if we are not careful with alcohol and drugs we will be led astray into sin.

Lastly, I would not be being biblically honest if I did not mention **Romans 14:21** which says, "it is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble." This topic, of course, is a sermon or sermon series on its own, but the main gist is that if your Christian liberty to drink causes others to stumble, then for their sake you should refrain. One case may be that you have a friend who is a recovering alcoholic. Would it be good to drink around them? Of course not. You would be leading them into temptation and possibly destroying their sobriety. Another case may be that you have a lot of friends who

have never heard a message like this and they feel that all alcohol in all circumstances is evil. If you were to drink around them they would look at you like a sinner and your testimony would lose it's power around them. For these reasons you may need to refrain from alcohol in these circumstances.

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Application

The application this obvious. Be very careful with alcohol! Fools boast about getting drunk or being wasted. Wise Christians take measures and make guardrails in their lives which keep them from wandering across the line of drunkenness or addiction. If you can't handle it, stay away from it. The bible doesn't forbid drinking alcohol, but it sure does give strong warning to those who can't drink it within the rules.

Conclusion

And of course, more than inebriation, seek a filling of the Spirit. The closer you are to God the more you will be able to handle alcohol wisely. **When alcohol or drugs can not be handled with wisdom, the wise thing to do would be to not handle them at all.** So where are you with alcohol and drugs? Do you completely abstain? Thats not an unwise stance. Just be careful not to unrighteously judge others who don't take that stance. Do you drink occasionally? If so, how are you keeping yourself safe from becoming drunk? Do you drink more than occasionally? Ask yourself why do you need alcohol in your life so much? Do you get drunk often? How do you justify this sin in your life? Are you not afraid of becoming and addict and rebelling against God's plan for your life? Are you an alcoholic or addict? What is your plan to break the habit? Who is praying for you? Who is keeping you accountable? How are you depending on Christ to help break your addiction?