

The Word Made Flesh

Jesus Drank Wine, Now What- John 2:1-12

1. Setting the Stage

The Word Made Flesh series is designed to get everyone at Legacy Church operating from the same theological and cultural foundation. John 2 brings us to Jesus' first miracle at Cana, which immediately raises an unavoidable question:

Jesus made wine, served wine, and approved the consumption of wine... so now what?

This sermon functions as a level-setting moment meant to address alcohol biblically, historically, and compassionately.

2. Casey's Testimony

- Grew up in a home where alcohol was normal and misused.
- Became an alcoholic and addict at 16.
- Court-ordered rehab at 17.
- Became a Christian at 18 and committed to sobriety.
- Spent five years abstaining without biblical understanding.
- Early conviction: Christians shouldn't drink because "the world does."
- Reading John 2 forced a crisis: Jesus made the very thing he believed Christians must avoid.
- Realized his **preferences, trauma, and background shaped his theology** instead of Scripture.
- Spent six months studying the Bible's teaching on alcohol and adjusted his convictions.
- Understands the pain and destruction alcohol can bring and empathizes with those who avoid it.
- But also acknowledges that misuse does not negate God's good design (similar to sex, enjoyment, or food).

Jesus Drank Wine, Now What- John 2:1-12

3. What the Bible Says About Alcohol

Scripture's teaching falls into two categories: gift and warning.

Alcohol as a Gift

- Wine gladdens the heart (Psalm 104).
- Wine can be enjoyed with joy before the Lord (Deuteronomy 14).
- Wine is part of blessing imagery—barns full, vats overflowing (Proverbs 3).
- Paul prescribes wine for health (1 Timothy 5).
- Ecclesiastes affirms wine enjoyed with a cheerful heart.

Alcohol as a Danger

- Wine can mock, strong drink can lead to fighting (Proverbs 20).
- Woe to those enslaved to strong drink (Isaiah 5).
- Drunkenness is repeatedly condemned (Ephesians 5, Galatians 5, 1 Corinthians 6).
- Drunkenness is incompatible with the alert lifestyle of a Christian (Romans 13).

Conclusion:

The Bible does not condemn alcohol itself. It condemns **drunkenness**, **abuse**, and **enslavement**.

4. How the Church Has Historically Viewed Alcohol

Early Church

- **Clement of Alexandria:**
 - Wine is God's invention; its **moderate use** is proper.
- **Irenaeus:**
 - Condemned the Gnostics for rejecting wine because doing so rejects God's good creation.

Jesus Drank Wine, Now What- John 2:1-12

Reformation

- **Luther:**
 - God forbids drunkenness, not wine or beer. Enjoy them rightly.

Christian Thinkers

- **C.S. Lewis:**
 - Temperance historically meant **self-control**, not abstinence.
- **G.K. Chesterton:**
 - Wine is to be received joyfully, not as an escape.
 - “Thank God for beer and burgundy by not drinking too much of them.”

Modern Evangelicals

Views vary widely, with many gravitating toward abstinence for wisdom rather than prohibition by doctrine.

5. The Three Christian Views on Alcohol

1. Prohibition

Definition: Alcohol itself is sinful.

Biblical Support: None.

This view cannot stand on Scripture.

2. Abstinence

Definition: Choosing never to drink as an act of wisdom or personal holiness.

Reasons people choose abstinence:

1. Family or personal history of addiction
2. Struggles with self-control
3. Protecting someone they love

Jesus Drank Wine, Now What- John 2:1-12

4. Their conscience doesn't allow it
5. They simply don't like it

Guiding Principles for Abstainers:

- Abstain in faith, not fear
- Follow your conscience
- Don't equate abstinence with righteousness
- Don't judge those who drink moderately
- Respect Christian freedom
- Be known for what you embrace, not just what you avoid

3. Moderation (Legacy Church's View)

Definition: Alcohol is not sinful; drunkenness is.

Motive: Enjoy God's gifts with self-control, discernment, and love.

Guiding Principles for Moderation:

1. Submit your freedom to Christ.
2. Never cross into drunkenness.
3. Pursue sobriety, not just the avoidance of drunkenness.
4. Never use alcohol as a crutch or coping mechanism.
5. Don't equate drinking with spiritual maturity.
6. Honor those who abstain.
7. Use your freedom to build unity, not division.