

Should Christians Drink?

A Biblical Examination of Alcohol and Christian Living

Key Text: Ephesians 5:18 (NIV)

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

Introduction

One of the most debated questions in the church today is: **"Should Christians drink alcohol?"**

Some believers see alcohol as a matter of personal liberty. Others believe Scripture and Christian wisdom point toward abstinence. Rather than asking, *"Can a Christian drink?"* we should ask, *"What choice best honors Christ, promotes holiness, and protects our witness?"*

This message is not about condemnation but about examining biblical principles that help us make God-honoring decisions.

I. Should Christians Drink If We Are Called to Be Holy?

1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV)

"But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do."

God's desire for every believer is holiness.

The Christian life is not about seeing how close we can get to the world while remaining saved. It is about becoming more like Jesus.

When considering any activity, including alcohol, we should ask:

- Does this draw me closer to Christ?
- Does this help me pursue holiness?
- Does this reflect a life that is set apart for God?

The question is not merely whether something is permitted, but whether it promotes spiritual growth and consecration.

Key Thought:

Holiness asks not, "Is it allowed?" but, "Does it honor God?"

II. Should Christians Drink If Alcohol Impairs Judgment?

Proverbs 20:1 (NIV)

"Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise."

Throughout Scripture, believers are commanded to be sober-minded, alert, and self-controlled.

Alcohol affects:

- Judgment
- Discernment
- Self-control
- Decision-making

Even when a person does not become drunk, alcohol's purpose is to alter the mind to some degree.

As Christians engaged in spiritual warfare, we need clear minds and sensitive hearts toward God.

1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

"Be alert and of sober mind."

Key Thought:

The Holy Spirit sharpens spiritual awareness; alcohol can dull it.

III. Should Christians Drink If Our Bodies Belong to God?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

"You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies."

Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.

Because we belong to Christ, we should seek to honor Him with every choice we make.

The issue becomes one of stewardship:

- Am I honoring God with my body?
- Am I caring for what God has entrusted to me?
- Does this choice reflect gratitude for Christ's sacrifice?

Key Thought:

Because we belong to Jesus, every area of life should be surrendered to His lordship.

IV. Should Christians Drink If It Affects Our Witness?

Romans 14:21 (NIV)

"It is better not to... drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall."

One of the strongest biblical considerations is influence.

Our choices affect:

- New believers
- Young people
- Family members
- Those struggling with addiction
- Unbelievers observing our lives

The Christian life is not simply about personal rights. It is also about loving others and protecting our testimony.

Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

"Let your light shine before others."

Key Thought:

A mature believer asks not only, "What am I free to do?" but also, "How will this affect others?"

V. Should Christians Drink When Alcohol Has Harmed So Many Lives?

Proverbs 23:29-32 (NIV)

"In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper."

The Bible repeatedly warns about the dangers associated with alcohol.

Throughout history, alcohol has contributed to:

- Broken homes
- Addiction
- Violence
- Financial hardship
- Damaged testimonies

Many people who suffer from alcoholism never intended to become addicted. Wisdom often means avoiding what has the potential to cause great harm.

Key Thought:

Just because something is available does not mean it is beneficial.

VI. Should Christians Drink When We Have Something Better?

Ephesians 5:18 (NIV)

"Do not get drunk on wine... Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

Notice Paul's contrast:

Not wine...

But the Spirit.

The world often looks to alcohol for:

- Relaxation
- Joy
- Comfort
- Escape

God offers something greater through the Holy Spirit:

- Lasting peace
- Genuine joy
- True comfort
- Spiritual power

What alcohol promises temporarily, the Spirit provides permanently.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace... self-control."

Key Thought:

Why seek satisfaction in something temporary when God offers something eternal?

The question is not simply:

"Can Christians drink?" The better question is: **"Should Christians drink?"**

When we consider:

- God's call to holiness,
- The importance of spiritual clarity,
- Stewardship of our bodies,
- Protection of our witness,
- The dangers associated with alcohol,
- And the fullness available through the Holy Spirit,

many believers conclude that abstinence is the wisest and most God-honoring choice.

Challenge

Before making any decision, ask:

1. Does this glorify God?
2. Does this strengthen my witness?
3. Does this help me pursue holiness?
4. Does this bring me closer to Christ?

If the answer is uncertain, wisdom says to choose the path that most honors the Lord.

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31 NIV)