

Ephesians 5:18

John MacArthur

Practical
Section

Chapter 4:1, Paul writes to the church at Ephesus:

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that you walk worthy of the vocation by which you are called"

This is a call for our life, our life style to be representative of the position we have in Christ, to walk worthy of the Gospel.

A Gospel that is Jesus Christ, God's Son, came as a man to this world, lived a sinless life, died for Himself a ransom for our sins, was raised from the dead, and is Lord + Savior.

The only way others can tell if we are a Christian is by our walk: what we say, where we go, how we act, what we do.

Do we set the right example before others, especially those we are responsible for, our family, our children, those we influence?

Then for last chapters (4, 5 + 6), Paul writes about what that walk should look like / what kind of life we should live. At the heart of our walk, is living to honor God. Living + moving in a direction that honors God. Having a "Word" centered life - which is a Holy Spirit controlled life - "what saith the scriptures" being obedient + growing in Grace, + becoming more like Christ.

"Do not get drunk with wine, for that is ~~disorderly~~ wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit. Why did Paul write such a contrast? Why is the filling of the Spirit contrasted w/ drunkenness? The scriptures denounce drunkenness as sin.

Some translations use the word "dissipation" instead of excess, means recklessness, immorality, a lack of restraint, loss of self control. In I Corinthians 6:9-10, Paul writes that a person who lives that way cannot, will not inherit the Kingdom of God. This is not behavior characteristic of a Christian. Paul writes in about 4 or 5 places, a list of characteristic sins of an unbeliever, and drunkenness is included.

The contrast is an analogy of different influences / good + bad. Both wine + the Holy Spirit are internal influences that will bring you under their power. Be under the influence of the Holy Spirit - not alcohol.

It was standard conduct in pagan religions to express worship in a drunken orgy, with others + even temple prostitutes. This idea was the only way to relate to gods was by losing all inhibitions. Drunkenness in pagan religions was not social - it was religious (courtship of truth). This religion of sex + union saturated the Greek + Roman world. Drunkenness was an important part of these pagan religions. Bacchus is the Roman wine god.

It was this type of pagan behavior that the early church believers were familiar with, and ~~called~~ ~~said~~ ~~from~~ called to come out of, and be separated to God.

Paul is saying don't get drunk, that is not how we are to worship + reverence God. True worship by believers comes from / through the Holy Spirit's direction + guidance.

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Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, reminding them that they had once (1 Corinthians 10) lived this pagan life, before their conversion, telling them they have to understand - you can not go back to these old ways. Paul says you can't drink from the cup at communion, & go back & get drunk to false gods. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord, & the table of demons too. This pagan practice was not to be part of the church, of the believer.

Do not get drunk, there are many warnings in the scriptures against drunkenness & the sin of drunkenness. There are constant calls in scripture for us to have self-control, clear mindedness, sober mindedness.

Word translated wine in NT is "oinos" (Greek), in Hebrew it is "yayin", refers to mixed wine. Other words are "^{Tirosh} ~~Chamar~~" - new wine, & "chamar" - something fermented. "Shakar" - strong drink, unmixed, made ^{not} from grapes

Romans 13:13, list drunkenness with vices

Galatians 5:21, 1 Corinthians 5, 1 Corinthians 6 - listed w/ vices

Drunkenness is the opposite of being sober mindedness & self control
For the Christian it is a sin; we are called to avoid it

1 Peter 4:3 speaks about us not carrying out the desires of the

lusts: sensuality, lust, drunkenness, parties, & idolatry

Drunkenness often leads to other sinful behavior - reason it is included in lists they often go together

Proverbs 20:1, ~~some~~ wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging,
and whoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

People do + say bad + stupid things when they are drunk, and
bad consequences often come from them.

Proverbs 23:19 Summary of Bible on drunkenness, ... do
not be with heavy ~~drunk~~ drinkers, ... for they will come
to poverty, Vs 29 - ^{Woe, sorrow, contention} ... ^{Woes} who ^{come}, who has
red eyes - those who begin long over wine + taste mixed wine"
It bites like a serpent, stings like a viper.

Vs 35: they struck me but I didn't become ill, they beat
me but I didn't know ... I'll seek another drink"

Isaiah 5, 28, 56, Hosea 4 - all warn of drunkenness

Drinking is a trap, many think they can handle it, but most
times it leads to hurt + failure - things we must avoid

Wine was used as an anesthetic, mixed w/ water to help
stomach issues, kill germs in water - but it has a potential
that can hurt us - How can we avoid this potential?

The only control we have is not to take it in, not drink.

Today, we drive cars, + the risk of hurting or killing others
is much greater, driving too fast, running over people,
driving wrong direction,

Leviticus ^{10:14} - people who did not drink, Pinchhead of Aaron, if
they did when they entered Tabernacle ^{Holy Place} - they may die
applicable to all who stand as priests to God

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Draws distinction between the Holy & Profane,
They were responsible to teach the "sons of Israel"
Set highest example

Numbers 6 - officers in Tabernacle

Nazirite vows - highest level of dedication - no wine
or strong drink, no grape juice or dried grapes

Proverbs 31: , woman's role, King, rulers - not for kings,
or for rulers to drink or desire strong drink, prevents
leadership, God says they will be judged

1 Timothy 3, people in positions of responsibility in the church:

Pastor, Overseer, Elder - many requirements - one is not devoted
to wine, deacons - not addicted to much wine ~~or wine~~

Wine is an issue - Why? Because of the potential for
drunkenness - leads to uncontrolled words & actions

Ephesians 5 "be careful how you walk, not as unwise,
but as wise", Vs 17, don't be foolish, don't get drunk

The scripture is clear on drunkenness, people in leadership
must set a pure example, teach truth accurately,

The Christian believer does not put himself in an altered
state by being drunk

Drunkenness is the old way of life - the born again believer
does not live that way anymore

Any drunkenness at any level is a sin

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Question that has to be answered: Is the alcoholic beverage today the same as was in ancient days?

Are we comparing apples to apples?

People that believe that believers are free to drink alcoholic drinks, will always say they're in the Bible, they drank alcoholic beverages in the O.T. & N.T., they drank wine in the OT & NT, the disciples drank wine, Jesus drank wine, & we can drink wine.

Was the wine in O.T. & N.T., the same as alcoholic drinks today?

Was a behavior in the ancient world established an absolute that is transferable to the present world?

Illustration: Psalm 150 tells us to dance to the Lord, but we don't do that, why? A Hebrew folk dance is a far cry from the sensual dancing of ~~the~~ modern culture.

Long ago, churches abandoned dancing, big difference in dancing today. - not honorable to God ~~not~~ sexual & sensual

Dancing disappears by the time you get to the N.T., nobody in the early church danced before the Lord

Another illustration - Slavery - in OT Slavery was permitted, but not kidnapping to make them slaves was different they exchanged work for food, family, life, security, freedom
Slavery in OT by Israel was benevolent, otherwise the attitude was homelessness & starvation - people would approach people & say can I live here & serve you?

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Much of it was a means of socially caring for people who would otherwise be destitute. We're not talking about kidnapping people, or buying & selling them against their will. Asa manil a slave. Every 7 years all slaves looked, many did not want to go

Slavery by capture / kidnapping was prohibited / forbidden
No relationship to human trafficking or slave market of middle ages or today, or African slaves

They had slaves in Bible - can we have slaves? Nobody sells people legally, people don't sell themselves
Nobody would advocate that

Is what we know as wine today - what they were drinking in the Bible? Or is it different?

Today, alcoholic products are intoxicating - and the sellers know it can be destructive

We know people who alcohol has destroyed

80K people a year in our country die every year of alcohol related illnesses or accidental death

38M alcoholics in USA

Modern alcoholic products have higher alcohol content than their ancient counterparts

Fermented beverages in ancient times were designed to produce safety - not harm - to protect life - not produce death

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Ancient wine was low in alcoholic content, 2-4% alcohol

The Greek wine 12-14%

Sept 2, Wednesday at Casa

It was 1,000 years after NT when process of distillation developed - distillation increased the alcoholic content from 40-~~75~~⁷⁵%

Today, vins as high as 20%, wine in ancient times was

boiled or mixed - if you boil wine that was 2-4% -

the alcohol is gone, mixing was normally 3 parts to 1,

you dilute the alcohol significantly

Hebrew + Greek words, Vayin + Oinos does not refer to only

intoxicating liquid made by fermentation - but in particular

refers to the thick un-intoxicating Symp or paste that

came from boiling wine to make it storable - later

added water - kind of like jelly - then it could be

squeezed out of the skins it was stored in

Only barbarians drank @ wine un-mixed

3 to 1 mixture, level of alcohol would be 2¹/₄ - 2³/₄%,

intoxicating drinks classified as 3.2% + above

4 to 1, 1.8 - 2.2%, some were 20 to 1 parts mixture

These were common in Rome, Egypt + Middle East

Mixed wine + boiled wine are both wines, serving drink

is dangerous + not what people did

They mixed wine + water to consume supply, to increase the flavor,

enhances flavor in wine + coffee

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Adding water releases the flavor molecularly + reduces bitterness
3rd reason - to prevent drunkenness

4th reason - as an antiseptic - to sanitize water, it had to be soft (water) because it was necessary to survive very hot in Israel, world was unsanitary - bacteria was everywhere 19th century before sanitary was understood + knew that bacteria existed - it was not the alcohol that killed bacteria - but the malic + tartaric acids

Provided in ancient days a drink, low to no alcohol that killed bacteria, reduced disease, + promoted health

Today we live in a sanitary world - no longer needed
It was necessary then, not necessary now

Today, alcoholic products are about \$, nobody needs them, spend 4B / yr on advertising

Drinking is very dangerous, recent study:

50% of people in America do not drink at all, 12% drink
drink 10 drinks a week, drinking is declining in US,
kills kids + adults,

23% of drinkers consume 76% of the alcohol

Most drinkers are binge drinkers - drink to get drunk - they are the most self destructive + most destructive

Psalms 104 - taken out of context

All these problems are worse for the young, for binge drinkers, for those addicted

Adrian Rogers

The Battle of Bette

- Billy says "do not look upon it"
- We should drink of that "Living Water of Christ" not alcoholic
- Mixing, Morking, Raging
- Oulivis the oppoite of its promise - Oulivis
- We are against what alcohol does - the lives + families it hurts / ruins
- Alcohol is one of the things that holds the power to ruin + destroy marriages
- It drives wedges between family members
- Many speak of the money they give to causes, while wrecking families + creating medical problems
- Our taxes are higher to fight crime, prevent health care, counseling for those hurt by alcohol use
- 1977 S.C. 9.7.P.22
- Alcoholism, Adultery - Billy Sunday, TN - ~~Adultery~~ man killed rattlesnake, put in box, son got bit - died - Hurt to our family
- Would we trade our children for alcohol
- For my \$ name, and \$ of cleaning up mess

Is there a
truth? Will you
follow truth?

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Ragus

Some people are
in them well for
lack of understanding
Scriptures - others
to love their own
way

- Abstain from fleshly lusts
- Be not among wine bibbers - Bible
- Aaron - Priest - fornicator - we are all priests
for Christ, our body is a Temple - we are its priests
Romans 14:21, law of love, not to let or
drive anything to make another stumble
Will it hurt me - not the only question, the real question
the impact on others - the moderate drinker
may cause another to drink who can not be
moderate - Will it cause another hurt?
1 of 15 drinks become alcoholic, 2 of 15 become
problem drinkers, will it be us? (in stores)
What causes alcoholism - alcohol - people that
don't drink don't have it

Outraged my brother, cost him his family - did not
support his family
Sons want to be like their father