

ALCOHOL
SOCIAL DRINKING
& THE CHRISTIAN

“Do not look on
the wine...”

Proverbs 23:31



ALCOHOL AND ITS DESTRUCTIVE NATURE

What is alcohol?

- Mocker and brawler – Proverbs 20:1
- Destructive – Proverbs 23:29-35
- A drug – cf. Galatians 5:19-21 (*pharmakeia*)
- A poison – intoxicant



ALCOHOL AND ITS DESTRUCTIVE NATURE



“The Dietary Guidelines for Americans defines moderate drinking as up to 1 drink (0.6 oz of pure alcohol) per day for women and up to 2 drinks per day for men. In addition, the Dietary Guidelines do not recommend that individuals who do not drink alcohol start drinking for any reason.” (CDC.gov)

- **Matthew 16:1-4; Luke 16:8**

“There are some people who should not drink any alcohol, including those who are:...Driving, planning to drive, or participating in other activities requiring skill, coordination, and alertness.” (Ibid.)

- **Ephesians 4:1; 5:15-16; 1 Peter 5:8**

WINE IN THE BIBLE



Translated Words (Hebrew)

- *Yayin* – wine, either fermented or unfermented.
 - Nehemiah 5:18; Isaiah 16:10; Numbers 6:4; Proverbs 23:31
- *Tirosh* – must or fresh grape juice (as just squeezed out); by implication (rarely) fermented wine.
 - Micah 6:15; Isaiah 65:8
- *Shekar* – ‘sweet drink’ expressed from fruits other than the grape, and drunk in an unfermented or fermented state.
 - Deuteronomy 14:26; Proverbs 20:1

WINE IN THE BIBLE



Translated Words (Greek)

- *Oinos* – a generic term for wine, either fermented or unfermented.
 - Used for *yayin* in LXX
- *Gleukos* – “new wine” – produced from the purest juice of the grape, which flowed spontaneously from the grape before the treading began.
 - “sweet wine, i.e. (properly) must (fresh juice)” (STRONG)
 - “sweet new wine” (BDAG)

NO PREVENTION ARGUMENT

Argument: In antiquity, there were no available ways to prevent fermentation. Thus, all wine was fermented.



Vinous Fermentation

- Sugar (carbon, hydrogen, oxygen); Gluten (carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen)
- Nitrogen → Gluten decay → Yeast reception → Alcohol

Preventing Fermentation

- Gluten Separation; Moisture Removal; Air Exclusion; Reduced Temperature; Sulphur Fumigation

THE BIBLE ON ALCOHOL AND WINE

- The Bible is not a treatise on any single subject, including alcohol.
- Get Wisdom and Understanding – Proverbs 4:5-7
- Discern Good and Evil – Hebrews 5:14
- Think Spiritually – 1 Corinthians 2:14



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