

ALCOHOL
SOCIAL DRINKING
& THE CHRISTIAN

“Do not look on
the wine...”

Proverbs 23:31



DRUNKENNESS

A MATTER OF DEGREE

Drunk – having the faculties impaired by alcohol.
(Webster's)

Drunkenness – the state of being intoxicated;
intoxication. (New Oxford American Dictionary)

Intoxication – the condition of having physical or
mental control markedly diminished by the effects of
alcohol or drugs. (Webster's)



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“The higher nerve functions of the forebrain, such as reasoning, judgment, and social restraint are impaired by very low concentrations of alcohol in the blood.”

(Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1959 ed., s.v. “Drunkenness,” by Clarence Weinert Muehlberger, p. 683)

“Within two or three minutes after a few sips of whiskey or beer are swallowed, alcohol can be detected in the blood.”

(Rolla N. Harger, “The Sojourn of Alcohol in the Body,” in Alcohol Education for Classroom and Community, ed. Raymond Gerald McCarthy (New York: McGraw Hill Book Co., 1964), p. 79)



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“There is a general sequence of events which commonly occurs when a sober person begins to drink alcoholic beverages. These events are expressions of the degree to which a person has lost control over his speech, emotional expression, and motor behavior. The rate at which this effect takes place is related to the quantity of alcohol ingested, to the rapidity of absorption, and to the body weight of the drinker. With the first few ‘social’ drinks, the individual’s judgment and inhibitions are affected.”

(Donald L. Gerard, “Intoxication and Addiction,” in *Drinking and Intoxication*, ed. Raymond Gerald McCarthy (Glencoe, Illinois: Free Press, 1959), p. 27)



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Scriptural Support

- **Galatians 5:21** – drunkenness – *methē*; an intoxicant, i.e. (by implication) intoxication. (STRONG)
 - No amount specified. Simply “intoxication.”
 - Moderate drinking = moderate intoxication



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Scriptural Support

- *“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation” (Ephesians 5:18).*
- **Drunk** – *methuskō* – signifies to make drunk, or to grow drunk (an inceptive verb, marking the process of the state expressed in “methuō – to be drunk with wine”), to become intoxicated. (Vine)
- **Dissipation** – *asōtia* – denotes “prodigality, profligacy, riot” (from *a*, negative, and *sozo*, “to save”) (Vine) (Grammatically speaks to the nature of the wine.)



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Degrees of Drunkenness Condemned

- **Romans 13:13** – revelry and drunkenness
 - Revelry (greater) – *kōmos* – "a revel, carousal," the concomitant and consequence of drunkenness. (VINE)
 - Drunkenness (lesser) – *methē* – intoxication; drunkenness (THAYER)

"make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts"



DRUNKENNESS

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Degrees of Drunkenness Condemned

- **1 Peter 4:3** – drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties
 - Drunkenness (greatest) – *oinophlygia* – an overflow of wine. (STRONG)
 - Revelries (greater) – *kōmos* – as defined before.
 - Drinking parties (lesser) – *potos* – a drinking. (VINE)

“have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles”



ALCOHOL AND THE CHRISTIAN

The Christian and Sobriety

- **1 Peter 1:13-14** – called to be sober.
- Physical – *nēphō* – to abstain from wine.
- Mental – *sōphrōn* – safe in mind, i.e. self-controlled.
- **1 Timothy 3:2** – temperate (physical), sober-minded (mental)
- **1 Peter 5:8** – sober (physical), vigilant (mental)
- **1 Thessalonians 5:5-10** – to be sober, of the day.



ALCOHOL AND THE CHRISTIAN

The Christian and Holiness

- Holiness is fundamental for the child of God –

1 Peter 1:13-16; 2:4-5, 9-12; Leviticus 10:8-11; Prov. 31:4-5

“Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Corinthians 7:1).

“Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper” (Proverbs 23:31-32).



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