

Why Christians Should Be Teetotalers

Prov. 20:1

Introduction:

- A. Alcohol/Drug addiction is a national scandal.
 - 1. Recognized by some thinking people (MADD and SADD)
 - 2. Teen-age alcoholism is a real problem.
- B. There are many biblical warnings against drinking of intoxicants.
- C. There is only one exception – medicinal uses.
 - 1. It was used as a sedative (Prov. 31:6)
 - 2. It was used to revive people (2 Sam. 16:2)
 - 3. It was used as an antiseptic (Lk. 10:34)
 - 4. It was used to treat stomach problems (1 Tim. 5:23)
- D. Yet, many think it takes alcohol to make a party or elegant dinner.
 - 1. Some Christians participate and claim to see nothing wrong with it.
 - 2. We offer 7 reasons why Christians should be teetotalers:

Discussion:

- I. Teetotalers Never Get Drunk**
 - A. A drunk surrenders his self-control (Noah, 2 Pet. 1:6; Gal. 5:23)
 - B. A drunk is lost (1 Cor. 6:10; Gal. 5:21)
- II. Teetotalers Never Commit Drink-related Sins**
 - A. “Banqueting” or drinking parties - “potos” - a drinking or imbibing (1 Pet. 4:3)
 - B. “Reveling” - “komos” (See Thayer).
 - C. “Excess of wine” - Drunkenness
 - D. Weakened inhibitions.
- III. Teetotalers Never Harm Others Because of Drink**
 - A. He will not harm another’s person or property because of drink.
 - B. He will not harm another’s soul because of drink (cf. Rom. 14:21)
- IV. Teetotalers Are Never Embarrassed After Sobering Up**
 - A. No need to apologize to anyone for actions where under the influence.
 - B. No need to be ashamed of anything done while drunk.
- V. Teetotalers Do Not Have to Make Weak Excuses for Drinking**
 - A. “Jesus made wine”
 - 1. Wine (oinos) like cider is fermented or unfermented (cf. Isa. 65:8).
 - 2. Strongest NT wine weaker than most now used.
 - B. “Not *given* to wine” implies moderate use ok as long as not given or addicted? (Cf. 1 Tim. 3:3)
 - 1. “Not given” to filthy lucre (Tit. 1:7).
 - C. “Not given to much wine” implies little ok?
 - 1. Give up point on “given”
 - 2. Is it ok to be addicted to little?
- VI. Teetotalers Never Struggle with Conscience over Drink**
 - A. Christians are to strive to always have a good conscience (Acts 24:16; 1 Tim. 1:5, 19)
 - B. Christians are to refrain from doubtful things (Rom. 14:22, 23)
- VII. Teetotalers Never Become Alcoholics.**
 - A. If alcoholism is an illness, it is a self-inflicted illness.
 - B. Alcoholics are brought under the power of alcohol (cf. 1 Cor. 6:12)
 - C. Alcoholics have surrendered their self-control.

Conclusion:

- A. “Why drink?” – No good reason
- B. “Why not drink?” – many good reasons.