

Alcohol

and the

Discipline

Social Issues, Part 3 • Alcohol



Understanding Alcohol

- Alcohol refers to ethyl or grain (esp. corn) alcohol. Ethanol is the active ingredient found in alcoholic beverages.
- Alcohol is a depressant, meaning that it reduces functional or nervous activity. What that means is that it affects one's judgment and coordination.
- Short-term effects:
 - * distorted vision, hearing, and coordination
 - * altered perceptions and emotions
 - * impaired judgment
 - * bad breath; hangovers

Understanding Alcohol

- Long-term effects:
 - * loss of appetite
 - * vitamin deficiencies
 - * stomach ailments
 - * skin problems
 - * sexual problems
 - * liver damage
 - * heart damage
 - * central nervous system damage
 - * memory loss
 - * cancer
 - * pregnancy problems

Understanding Alcohol

- “Alcoholism” (or “Alcohol Dependence”) is the disease-term that our society uses to label a lifestyle drunkard. Symptoms include:
 - * **craving** – strong need or urge to drink
 - * **loss of control** – not being able to stop drinking
 - * **physical dependence** – withdrawal symptoms, such as nausea, sweating, shakiness, and anxiety
 - * **tolerance** – the need for greater amounts of alcohol in order to get “high”

Understanding Alcohol

- Alcohol problems include:
 - * **alcoholism**
 - * **alcohol abuse**
 - * **irresponsibility or inability**
 - * **crime & auto accidents**
 - * **medical conditions**

Alcohol Statistics

- **Addiction** [question]¹

- * There are more than 12 million alcoholics in America. Three-fourths of all adults drink alcohol, and 6% of them are alcoholics. 15% of U.S. residents are considered “problem drinkers.” ~30% of Americans report experiencing an alcohol disorder at one point in their lifetime.
- * The World Health Organization estimates that there are 140 million people with alcoholism worldwide.
- * In 2000, nearly 7 million people ages 12 to 20 were binge drinkers. Three-fourths of all high school seniors report being drunk at least once.
- * Americans spend \$197 million each day on alcohol.

Alcohol Statistics

- **Accidents**

- * Each year in America 79,000 deaths are attributable to excessive alcohol use.
- * Half of the yearly auto accident fatalities are a result of alcoholic consumption. Statistics indicate that drunk driving results in 1 injury every minute and 1 death every 32 minutes.
- * Drunk drivers cost the United States approximately 50 billion dollars every year.

Alcohol Statistics

- **Abuse**

- * In cases of domestic partner or child violence, 35% of offenders were under the influence of alcohol.
- * Alcohol is associated with 2 out of 3 instances of intimate partner violence.
- * Alcohol is a leading factor in child maltreatment and neglect cases, and is the most frequent substance abused among these parents.

A Biblical Perspective

- **Drunkennness is clearly prohibited.**
 - * **Key text** – Ephesians 5:18
 - * **Destruction is predicted upon drunkards**
(Proverbs 20:1; 23:19-21, 29-32; Isaiah 5:11; 28:7-8; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).
 - * **Drunkennness is associated with sin** (Noah–Genesis 9:20-22; Lot–Genesis 19:35-36; Galatians 5:19-20).

A Biblical Perspective

- **Drinking must be considered through principles.**
 - * **Principle of Self-control** – I Corinthians 6:12;
1 Thessalonians 5:6-8; 1 Peter 5:8
 - * **Principle of Sanctification** – I Corinthians 9:24-27;
10:23; I Thessalonians 5:21-22
 - * **Principle of Worship** – Exodus 20:3; 1 Corinthians
10:31; Ephesians 5:18
 - * **Principle of Association** – Romans 12:2; 1 John 2:15-17
 - * **Principle of Effect** – 1 Corinthians 8:13; Romans
14:13, 16-21

Alcohol & the Gospel²

- **We must remember who we are – the people of God** (I Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 3:17-19; 1 Peter 2:9-12).
- **We must remember how we should walk – Spirit-filled** (Ephesians 4:1, 17; 5:2, 6-18).

Alcohol & the Gospel

- **We must remember what we are doing – representing the Light** (1 Corinthians 10:31-33; Ephesians 5:6-18; Colossians 4:5; 1 Peter 2:9-12; 4:1-7).
- **We must remember the enemy's tactics – spiritual blindness** (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 2 Corinthians 4:1-6; Ephesians 2:1-3; 6:10-13).³

Endnotes

1. How many of you know of someone in your family who has been adversely affected by alcohol?
2. Now, let's sharpen our focus even further. As we evaluate this issue biblically, we must also do so within the firm and glorious reminder that we are followers of Jesus—seeing Him, savoring Him, and sharing Him. Our goal, as His disciples, is to know, love, live, and give Jesus—this is our Single Focus that must affect the way we think through issues like this.
3. So, drunkenness is clearly out, but what about drinking? That is a decision that every believer must make for himself/herself (Romans 14:22-23), and one which we must do in total commitment to the gospel and the issues that flow from it. And, to be simple, if you are a member of this church, the decision has been made for you, for our Covenant reads – “We also engage...to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drink as a beverage.”

References

1. *Alcoholism Statistics* – <http://bit.ly/Y115Dm>
2. *Alcohol Use & Abuse Statistics* – <http://bit.ly/Y115Dm>
3. *Statistics on Alcoholics* – <http://bit.ly/Y12pWA>
4. *Is It Okay to Drink Alcohol?* – <http://bit.ly/WrYlPC>
5. *J. C. Ryle, Temperance, and Abortion* – <http://bit.ly/Ws0qLu>
6. *Be Filled with the Spirit* – <http://bit.ly/Ws24wT>
7. *Let's All Work to Fight Drug Abuse*, 2007 edition by L.A.W. Publications.

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