

ALCOHOL
SOCIAL DRINKING
& THE CHRISTIAN

“Do not look on
the wine...”

Proverbs 23:31



ABUSING SCRIPTURE



Exegesis VS Eisegesis

- *Exegesis* – to guide or lead out.
 - Cause – **Ephesians 5:17**
- *Eisegesis* – to guide or lead in.
 - Cause – Sectarianism, Practical Atheism, Self-Will

Abusing Scripture

- **Matthew 4:5-7; 2 Peter 3:15-16; Luke 10:29**

ARGUMENTS FROM SCRIPTURE

Wedding Feast in Cana – John 2:1-11

- Assumptions – (1) “*wine*” = fermented; (2) “*good wine*” = more potent; (3) “*well drunk*” = intoxicated
- “*Wine*” – *oinos* – either fermented or unfermented.
- “*Good wine*” – cf. v. 9 – answers to the taste.
- “*Well drunk*” – to be moistened; to be drenched with liquid.
- Implications (if wine was alcoholic): Jesus supplied alcohol (even stronger than before) to drunk people! He led others to sin – drunkenness.



ARGUMENTS FROM SCRIPTURE

New Wine/Wineskins – Luke 5:37-39

- Claim – *“new wine”* = fermenting; *“old wineskins”* will break when fermentation produces gas.
- NOTE: Even NEW wineskins would break (cf. Job 32:19).
- Goal – preservation (v. 38); *“old wineskins”* contain remains of *“old wine”* = fermentation of *“new wine”* = bursting skins. (So use *“new wineskins”* without remains of *“old wine”* to preserve the *“new wine.”*)
- *“old is better”* (v. 39)? – SAYS THE DRUNK!



ARGUMENTS FROM SCRIPTURE

Jesus, a Winebibber? – Luke 7:31-35

- *Oinos* – fermented or unfermented wine.
- Who is accusing Jesus? – vv. 29-30 – Pharisees!
- Jesus' Point: (v. 32) – They are like children; (vv. 33-34) – ABSURD accusations against John and Jesus!
- NOTE: (v. 34) – paired with “*glutton*” and “*friend of tax collectors and sinners*” shows it is an accusation of sin; (v. 35) – Accusations are unsupported.



ARGUMENTS FROM SCRIPTURE

Jesus' drink on the cross – Matt. 27:34, 48;
Mark 15:23, 36; John 19:28-30

- First, He refused – Matthew 27:34; Mark 15:23 (*“mingled with gall/myrrh”*) (as a narcotic, STRONG)
- What He accepted was different – Matt. 27:48; Mark 15:36; John 19:29 – *“sour wine”* (NKJV); *“vinegar”* (ASV, KJV) (*oxos*)
- Jesus refused the alcoholic/inebriating wine and accepted the vinegar wine which was not intoxicating.



ARGUMENTS FROM SCRIPTURE

Accusation on Pentecost – Acts 2:13, 15

- Peter's argument does not necessarily supply every reason for not being drunk – (v. 15) (3rd hour, 9 AM)
 - Does it prove they would normally drink in moderation, or that they get drunk, just not so early?
- Mockers – (v. 13) – “*new wine*” (*gleukos*) – not intoxicating.
 - They were dismissing the conclusion others were reaching (vv. 11-12), not making a serious argument.



ARGUMENTS FROM SCRIPTURE

Wine in **Romans 14:21**

- Context: Prior dietary restrictions now a matter of conscience, not enjoined by the Law of Christ. Preserve unity (**v. 3**).
- Matters which are pure – (**vv. 14, 16, 20**)
- Matters God approves – (**vv. 3-6**) (Alcohol fit? – **Proverbs 20:1; 23:31; 1 Peter 5:8**)
- Brethren overly strict, not morally loose – (**vv. 1-3**)



ARGUMENTS FROM SCRIPTURE



Abuse of the Lord's Supper – 1 Cor. 11:20-22

- Context: Lord's Supper being abused (vv. 17, 20, 23-32) – Divisiveness (vv. 18, 21a, 22b, 33) and making it a common meal (vv. 20-22, 29, 34)
- Was the wine fermented? – *“fruit of the vine”* (Matt. 26:29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:18)
- Does *“another is drunk”* mean intoxicated? – *methyo* (to satiate) – *“one is HUNGRY and another is DRUNK”*
 - Why not make a point like 1 Corinthians 6:9-11?

ARGUMENTS FROM SCRIPTURE



“not given to MUCH wine” – 1 Timothy 3:3, 8

- (v. 3) – *me* (not) *paroinon* (addicted to wine) – “not a drunkard” (ESV); “not addicted to wine” (NASB)
 - (v. 2) – temperate – *nēphalios* – sober
- (v. 8) – *me* (not) *oino* (wine) *polys* (much) *prosechō* (given to) – “[not] addicted to much wine” (NASB, ESV)
 - Using 4 words to say the same thing he said with 2 words in **verse 3**.
- Condemned excess sanctions moderation? (cf. James 1:21)

ARGUMENTS FROM SCRIPTURE



“use a little wine” – 1 Timothy 5:23

- *Oinos* – fermented or unfermented wine.
- *“no longer drink ONLY water”*
- Why *“use a little wine?”* – medicinal; *“stomach’s sake,”* and *“frequent infirmities”*
 - NOTE: NOT “drink wine,” RATHER *“USE a little wine”* (“take” a little wine as MEDICINE)
- Alcohol not demanded by context, but IF alcohol, no authority for “social drinking,” but for medication.

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