

Conquering Giants

1 Samuel 17:40-51

A series of sermons
regarding some of the giants
that we face today and the
power that God provides to
overcome them.

PEPPER ROAD

CHURCH OF CHRIST



SOCIAL DRINKING

“WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY?”

Alcohol and the Christian

Social Drinking

- Problem of Alcohol
- Meaning of “wine”
- Ability to preserve grape juice

The Problem of Alcohol

- 88,000 deaths each year in U.S.
- Responsible for 1 in 10 deaths among working age adults 20-64 years old
- Over 3,000,000 deaths globally in 2012
- Contributes to over 200 diseases
- Fifth leading factor of premature death or disability, globally
 - Among those 15-49, it is FIRST!

The Problem of Alcohol

- Nearly 700,000 college students assaulted by another student who had been drinking
- Nearly 100,000 report alcohol related sexual assault or date rape
- Nearly 40% of prison inmates serving time for violent crime – under influence of alcohol at the time of the offense
- More likely to get a divorce – direct correlation (Nat. Institute of Health)

The Problem of Alcohol

According to the CDC...

- “Persons who should not drink any alcohol

The Problem of Alcohol

According to the CDC...

- “Persons who should not drink **any** alcohol”

The Problem of Alcohol

According to the CDC...

- “Persons who should not drink **any** alcohol”
 - Those “participating in other activities requiring skill, coordination and alertness”

The Problem of Alcohol

According to the CDC...

- “Persons who should not drink **any** alcohol”
 - Those “participating in other activities requiring skill, coordination and alertness”
 - (Eph.6:18) praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints —

The Problem of Alcohol

According to the CDC...

- “Persons who should not drink **any** alcohol”
 - Those “participating in other activities requiring skill, coordination and alertness”
 - (1Thess.5:6,8) ⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. ⁸ But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

The Problem of Alcohol

According to the CDC...

- “Persons who should not drink **any** alcohol”
 - Those “participating in other activities requiring skill, coordination and alertness”
 - (2Tim.4:5) But you **be watchful in all things**, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

The Problem of Alcohol

According to the CDC...

- “Persons who should not drink **any** alcohol”
 - Those “participating in other activities requiring skill, coordination and alertness”
 - (1Pet.4:7) But the end of all things is at hand; therefore **be serious** and **watchful** in your prayers.
 - (1Pet.5:8) Be **sober**, be **vigilant**; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

The Problem of Alcohol

According to the CDC...

- “Persons who should not drink **any** alcohol”
 - Those “participating in other activities requiring skill, coordination and alertness”
 - (Lk. 16:8) ...For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.

The Meaning of “Wine”

- In the Old Testament
 - Tirosh:
 - Yayin:
 - Shekar
- In the New Testament
 - Gluekos
 - Oinos

The Preservation of “Wine”

- Filtration
- Boiling
- Sealing and lowering temperature
- Sulfur fumigation

Colossians 3:17

- And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Whatever You Do...

- Command
 - Direct Statement
 - Approved Example
 - Necessary Inference
-
- The burden is not upon the child of God to find where a thing is explicitly forbidden – the burden is upon the one who has or seeks the practice, to find where it is positively authorized in God's word.

Whatever You Do...

- Command
 - Direct Statement
 - Approved Example
 - Necessary Inference
-
- Where is the scriptural authority for social or moderate consumption of intoxicating beverage?

Jesus and Wine

- The Wedding Feast (Jn.2:1-11)
- New Wine in Old Wineskins (Lk.5:37-39)
- Jesus and John (Lk.7:34)

WINE

IN THE EARLY CHURCH

The Problem of “Social” Drinking

Six Passages To Examine

- Acts 2:13
- Romans 14:21
- 1 Timothy 3:8
- Ephesians 5:18
- 1 Corinthians 11:21
- 1 Timothy 5:23

- **Receive the word with all readiness...** (Ac.17:11)
- **Test all things...** (1Thess.5:21-22)

Acts 2:13

- ¹³ Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.” ¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “ Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

Acts 2:13

- ¹³ Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.” ¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “ Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

Acts 2:13

- ¹³ Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.” ¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “ Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

Acts 2:13

- Does this text provide the authority?
 - Peter didn't deny drinking – just denied being drunk
- “Testing” the argument
 - Must be NECESSARY – forced to the conclusion
 - Peter only denied being drunk in the morning – Drunk later?
 - Jesus didn't deny having a demon in John 7:20
 - Peter gave the reason that was best suited to meet the mockers
 - He did not have to list every reason that they were not drunk

Acts 2:13

- Does this text provide the authority?
 - Peter didn't deny drinking – just denied being drunk
- Silence does NOT imply consent
 - (Ac.15:24; Matt.28:20; Heb.7:14)
 - A thing does not have to be explicitly condemned to be sinful – just not authorized!

Romans 14:21

- It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.

Romans 14:21

- It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.

Romans 14:21

- Text in Context
 - Problem of unity among Jews and Gentiles
 - Conscience sensitive to past prohibitions
 - Matters of indifference to God – He received both the *eater* and the *non-eater*
 - Does NOT teach that God receives those who are *looser* in their conscience or conduct than the gospel requires
 - Parallel with 1 Corinthians 8,9,10

Romans 14:21

- Clearly limited to pertain to...
 - “all things” that “indeed are pure” (v.20)
 - “nothing” that is “unclean of itself” (v.14)
 - Things that are “good” (v.16)
 - Things that can be done “unto the Lord” (v.6)

Romans 14:21

- Authority for social drinking?
 - **Argument**: Paul mentioned wine with meat in a context concerning things that God “received” – therefore it is implied that we are authorized to drink intoxicating wine
 - **Problem**: Assumes what is not proven
 - Alcoholic wine has to be proven

Romans 14:21

- Is the “oinos” in this passage alcoholic?
 - The word itself does not tell us
 - oinos is a general term like groceries or fruit – it simply means *grape juice*
 - *It can be fermented or un-fermented grape juice*
 - The context has to determine if alcoholic
 - Certainly possible and even likely that some who ate “only vegetables” (v.2) would also drink “only water” (1Tim.5:23)

Romans 14:21

- Is the “oinos” in this passage alcoholic?
 - Context must determine
 - “*All things*” that “*indeed are pure*” (v.20)
 - “*nothing*” that is “*unclean of itself*” (v.14)
 - “*good*” (v.16)
 - Something that can be done “*unto the Lord*” (v.6)
 - Does beer, wine, whiskey, vodka *fit* this list?
 - What proves too much proves nothing at all

1 Timothy 3:8

- Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money,

1 Timothy 3:8

- Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money,

1 Timothy 3:8, 2-3

- Likewise **deacons must be** reverent, not double- tongued, **not given to much wine**, not greedy for money,
- ² **A bishop then must be** blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober- minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; ³ **not given to wine**, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;

1 Timothy 3:3, 8

- v.3 (paroinos)
 - **BDAG**: pert. to one who is given to drinking too much wine, addicted to wine, drunken
- v.8 (prosecho)
 - **BDAG**: “have in close proximity to... lit. of mental processes ‘turn one’s mind to’

1 Timothy 3:3, 8

- Elder (*paroinos*) VS Deacon (*prosecho*)
 - Both convey the idea of being addicted to
 - Not different qualifications but synonymous
- **One word... That says the same as 3 words!**
 - Not *paroinos* (v.3)
 - “addicted to much wine” (BDAG)
 - Not *prosecho* polys oinos (v.8)
 - “addicted to” – “much” – “wine”

1 Timothy 3:8

- Authorizing the moderate by condemnation of the extreme or excess
 - Faulty hermeneutic
 - Jas.1:21 – “overflow of wickedness”
 - Eccl.7:17 – “overly wicked”
 - Rom.6:12 – “Do not let sin reign in your body”
 - Condemning the excess does not authorize the moderate

Ephesians 5:18

- And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

Ephesians 5:18

- Text in Context

- Exhorting Christians to imitate God
- Cast off darkness & walk as children of light
- Find out what is acceptable to the Lord
- Walk circumspectly
- Be wise and understand God's will
- Be filled with the Spirit
- **Antithesis** to it all > **being drunk with wine**

Ephesians 5:18

- Authority for social drinking?
 - **Argument**: Pauls' command to not be *drunk* stops short of requiring abstinence, therefore moderate or social drinking is authorized
 - **Failure**: Authorizing the moderate by condemnation of the extreme or excess
 - Jas.1:21 – “overflow of wickedness”
 - Eccl.7:17 – “overly wicked”
 - Rom.6:12 – “Do not let sin reign in your body”

Ephesians 5:18

- Text in Context

- Cast off darkness & walk as children of light
- Find out what is acceptable to the Lord
- Walk circumspectly, Be wise, understand God's will
- Be filled with the Spirit

- Would it be here that God would authorize the social consumption of something that would...

- *“bite like a serpent... sting like a viper”* and cause one to lose wisdom and discernment (Prov.23 & 31)??

1 Corinthians 11:21

- ²⁰ Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. ²¹ For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk.

1 Corinthians 11:21

- ²⁰ Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. ²¹ For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk.

1 Corinthians 11:21

- Authorization for social drinking?
 - **Argument**: They must have drunk intoxicating wine in their assemblies (possibly in the L.S.) if they were “*drunk*” therefore drinking intoxicating wine is authorized because Paul only condemned their drunkenness.
 - Another attempt to authorize the moderate by condemnation of the extreme or excess

1 Corinthians 11:21

- Authorization for social drinking?
 - **Argument**: They must have drunk intoxicating wine in their assemblies (possibly in the L.S.) if they were “*drunk*” therefore drinking intoxicating wine is authorized because Paul only condemned their drunkenness.
 - **Question**: Were they inebriated?
 - If not, the argument falls apart

1 Corinthians 11:21

- Were they inebriated?
 - methyo certainly means “to be intoxicated”
 - **Thayer**: *to be drunken*
 - **BDAG**: to drink to a point of intoxication

1 Corinthians 11:21

- Were they inebriated?
 - methyo certainly means “to be intoxicated”
 - But methyo is sometimes used to mean “*full*” or “*satiated*”
 - (Isa.34:5) “For my sword is satiated” (NASB)
 - (Ezek.39:19) “So you will... drink blood until you are drunk...” (NASB)
 - (Isa.58:11) The Lord will... satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden...” (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 11:21

- Were they inebriated?
 - “And another is filled.” – So the Greek word μεθύω signifies here, being opposed to “one is hungry.” The word is used in this sense by the LXX (*Macknight on the Epistles, p.181*)

1 Corinthians 11:21

- Were they inebriated?
 - The word means *to be filled* or *full*
 - Without question, If a person is *filled* or *full* of intoxicating wine, they will be drunk or intoxicated
 - But the word can be used in regard to things which are not intoxicating, in which case it does not imply anything about intoxication

1 Corinthians 11:21

- Were they inebriated?
 - The context is not about inebriation, revelry or debauchery – it is about inconsiderate selfishness, favoritism and division
 - “methyo” is used in contrast to “hungry” and it means *full* or *satiated*
 - They were not literally *drunk* in the sense of *inebriation*
 - Therefore there is nothing in the context that would authorize social drinking

1 Timothy 5:23

- No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.

1 Timothy 5:23

- No longer drink only water, but use a little **wine** for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.

1 Timothy 5:23

- Authority for social drinking?
 - If any passage authorized moderate drinking of alcohol, this would seem to come the closest
 - Clearly authorizes the use of a “little wine”
 - What does this mean and what does it authorize?

1 Timothy 5:23

- Specifics Limit the General
 - When God specifies a thing, all other things in that class are excluded
 - Ark – gopher wood
 - Passover – male lamb of the first year
 - Music – sing
 - L.S. – unleavened bread and fruit of the vine
- “The Law of Exclusion”

1 Timothy 5:23

- Specifics Limit the General

- This passage undeniably give positive authority for the moderate consumption of oinos...
- But God specified that it was for *medicinal* use – “for your frequent infirmities”
- Thus, when God specifies that moderate consumption (“*a little oinos*”) is for *medicinal* use (“*for your... frequent infirmities*”), then all other moderate use (i.e. social, recreational) is excluded

The Command to “Be Sober”

- nepho

- **Strong:** to abstain from wine
- **Thayer:** to be sober. To be calm and collected in spirit; to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect.
- **BDAG:** be sober; ... be free from every form of mental and spiritual ‘drunkenness’...
- **Vine:** signifies “to be free from the influence of intoxicants”

The Command to “Be Sober”

- nepho

- **Strong:** to abstain from wine
- **Thayer:** to be sober. To be calm and collected in spirit; to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect.
- **BDAG:** be sober; ... be free from every form of mental and spiritual ‘drunkenness’...
- **Vine:** signifies “to be free from the influence of intoxicants”

The Command to “Be Sober”

- nepho

- **Strong:** to abstain from wine
- **Thayer:** to be sober. To be calm and collected in spirit; to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect.
- **BDAG:** be sober; ... be free from every form of mental and spiritual ‘drunkenness’...
- **Vine:** signifies “to be free from the influence of intoxicants”

The Command to “Be Sober”

- 2 Timothy 4:5
 - “...be watchful (sober) in all things”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8
 - “...let us watch and be sober”
- 1 Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8
 - “gird up the loins of your mind and be sober”
 - “be serious and watchful”
 - “be sober, be vigilant”

Exhortations That Reject Social Drinking

- 1 Peter 4:3

- For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles —when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

Exhortations That Reject Social Drinking

- 1 Peter 4:3
 - For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles —when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

Exhortations That Reject Social Drinking

- 1 Peter 4:3

- For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles —when we walked in... drinking parties... (potos ΠÓΤΟΣ)
- BDAG: “*a social gathering at which wine was served*”
- LEH: “*drinking... derived from הַתֵּשׁ - to drink*”
- Vine: *potos* (πότος, 4224), lit., “*a drinking,*”
- R.C. Trench: *drinking* “*not of necessity excessive, but giving opportunity for excess*”

Exhortations That Reject Social Drinking

- 1 Peter 4:3

- For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles —when we walked in... drinking parties... (potos ΠÓΤΟΣ)
- BDAG: “a social gathering at which wine was served”
- LEH: “drinking.. derived from הַשָּׂה - to drink”
- Vine: *potos* (πότος, 4224), lit., “a drinking,”
- R.C. Trench: *drinking* “not of necessity excessive, but giving opportunity for excess”

Exhortations That Reject Social Drinking

- Romans 13:13-14

- ¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Exhortations That Reject Social Drinking

- Romans 13:13-14

- ¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Exhortations That Reject Social Drinking

- 1 Peter 2:11
 - Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

Exhortations That Reject Social Drinking

- 1 Peter 2:11
 - Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, **abstain** from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

“Test Results”

- The passages put forth and considered did not provide authority for social drinking
 - Acting without authority is lawlessness (Matt.7:21-23)
- The requirement of sobriety is transgressed when one drinks socially
- Social drinking makes provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts and it wars against the soul

WINE

IN THE EARLY CHURCH

The Problem of “Social” Drinking