

Wine in the Bible



Deuteronomy 14:26; Proverbs 20:1



Jul 25, 2021

Is it right for a Christian to drink alcoholic beverages? Why or why not? Did Jesus drink, create and serve alcoholic beverages?

1. Does God's A of Something in the Past Mean It Is A for Today?

Principle – "forbidden or ungodly activities to be avoided by God's children has not been static or fixed throughout time. At times an activity may change from one category to another (good/acceptable to bad/not acceptable) depending on specific situations."

Examples – warfare, slavery, dancing (Dr. Peter Masters, London)

2. Were the Alcoholic Beverages God C and Encouraged in the Past the S as the Alcoholic Beverages Being Consumed Today?

1) Wines of the Ancients were Often N

How did Israel process their grape harvest and when did it become "wine"?

- ⇒ Gather Grapes – "wine"
- ⇒ Wine Press – "wine"
- ⇒ Fermented Wine – "wine"
- ⇒ Filtered Wine – "wine"
- ⇒ Boiled Wine – "wine"
- ⇒ Mixed Wine – "wine"

2) Alcoholic Wines of the Ancients were Very W

Naturally fermented wine = max of 9% to 11% alcohol. It was known as "Unmixed Wine." 1,200 years after the New Testament was written the ingenuity of man discovered the process of fermenting and distilling to higher potency.

What do you do with "Unmixed Wine"?

- ⇒ Mix the “Unmixed Wine” with Water – up to 20-to-1 water to alcohol
- ⇒ Drink the “Unmixed Wine” as an Intoxicating Beverage

“The simple wines of antiquity was incomparably less deadly than the stupefying and ardent beverages of our western nations. The wines of antiquity was more like syrups; many of them were not intoxicant; many more intoxicant in a small degree; and all of them, as a rule, taken only when largely diluted with water. They contained, even undiluted, but 4% or 5% alcohol.” – *Smith’s Bible Dictionary* quoting Cannon Farrar, 1863

3. Were there Boundaries that L _____ the Use of Alcoholic Beverages in the Past and Are They Different Today?

- 1) Boundary of Availability
- 2) Boundary of Restrictive Use – priests, kings, etc.

4. How Do I K _____ Whether “Wine” in the Bible is Non-Alcoholic or Alcoholic?

Consider the context when “wine” is used in the Bible:

- Neutral — no moral judgement is indicated, unknown.
- Evil — use is forbidden, wine is condemned, alcoholic.
- Good — wine is seen as positive, wine is a blessing, non-alcoholic.

5. Has the D _____ Posed by Alcoholic Beverages in the Past Changed?

“The use of alcoholic beverages has become America’s number one public enemy, costing over \$117 billion annually and claiming at least 100,000 lives per year, **25 times as many as all illegal drugs combined**. The real human cost of alcohol in terms of retarded children, violence, accidents, child and spouse abuse, divorces, rapes, robberies, murders, sickness, and death, transcends statistical figures of dollars, disabilities and death.” (Back cover of *Wine in the Bible*, Samuele Bacchiocchi)

A Sad Ending – Jacqueline Saburido

A Happy Ending – Stan Hess

Classic Research & Printed Material:

- *Bible Wines or Laws of Fermentation and Wines of the Ancients*, William Patton, first printed in 1871, 140 pages, still in print.
- *Wine in the Bible, a Biblical Study in the Use of Alcoholic Beverages*, Samuele Bacchiocchi, 300 pages, 2004
- *Should Christians Drink? The Biblical Case for Abstinence*, Peter Masters, 1992 (full length 110 pages AND condensed edition 32 pages)
- *Alcohol, 8 Questions Every Christian Should Ask*, 25 pages, Scott Wendal