

What's Wrong With Drugs & Alcohol?

Introduction:

- A. [New: “We’re Against That, But Why?”]
- B. Starting with the most questioned = Drugs & Alcohol
- C. [Difference between a Methodist & Baptist]
- D. Not a “Baptist” issue, but a Christian issue...
- E. Titus 2:11-12
- F. *“Even though we are free in Christ, drugs and alcohol should not be masters in our life.”*
- G. Searching the Scriptures
- H. 2 Observations:
 - I. What the Bible clearly instructs about drugs and alcohol.
 - a. We must obey the law.
 - i. We must abstain from illegal narcotics & under-aged drinking, because it’s against the law.
 - ii. As Christian we must obey the law of the land.
 - 1. *“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.”* – Rom. 13:1-2
 - 2. *“Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.”* – 1 Pet. 2:13-17

- b. We must not be given to drunkenness or addictions
 - i. It is a sin to be drunk.
 - ii. We are told to abstain from drunkenness
 - 1. *“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit”* – Eph. 5:18
 - 2. *“Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it swirls around smoothly; At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things.”* – Prov. 23:29-33
 - iii. We are even to abstain from others who practice drunkenness
 - 1. Especially drunk Christians...
 - 2. *“But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.”* – 1 Cor. 5:11
 - iv. The Bible is also clear that we shouldn’t be mastered or addicted to anything, but Christ.
 - 1. *“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”* – 1 Cor. 6:12
 - 2. *“They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves of sin and corruption. For you are a slave to whatever controls you.”* – 2 Pet. 2:19 NLT

“Now let’s turn to our next observation...”

II. What the Bible leaves for us to decide about drugs and alcohol.

a. We cannot deny the use of intoxicating substances in the Bible.

i. Particularly alcohol is used both in the Old & New Testaments

1. *“I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them.”* – Amos 9:14
2. In John 2, Jesus turns the water to wine.
3. *“No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach’s sake and your frequent infirmities.”* – 1 Tim. 5:23

ii. However, we must understand what wine was in Bible time.

1. It was used for necessity
 - a. They had water, milk, & wine
 - b. Water was not always sanitary
2. 3 forms of wine
 - a. New wine
 - i. Fresh, but fermented quickly
 - ii. 3 parts water & 1 part wine
 - b. Fermented wine
 - i. Wine that had aged
 - ii. But they still added even more water to stifle drunkenness.
 - iii. 12 parts water
 - c. Concentrated wine
 - i. Boiled down to a past
 - ii. Kept in wine skins
 - iii. 20 parts water
3. However, the abstained from “strong drinks”

- a. These were used only for the purposes of getting drunk...
- b. A practice they understood was wicked.

iii. There is no direct verse that says drinking alcohol or taking legal recreational drugs is a sin.

1. We are not in bondage, but we live in liberty
2. However, we must be careful with our liberty
3. *“All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.”* – 1 Cor. 10:23
4. Therefore...

b. We must keep our freedoms in check with Scripture.

1. Is this the best choice to take?

1. Alcohol leads to foolishness
 - a. *“Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.”* - Prov. 20:1
 - b. A stern warning to consider
2. But also notice how God called for abstinence of His leaders.
 - a. Priest *“Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations, that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean, and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them by the hand of Moses”* - Lev. 10:9-11

- b. Kings *“It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Nor for princes intoxicating drink; Lest they drink and forget the law, And pervert the justice of all the afflicted.”* - Prov. 31:4-5
- c. Nazaites
 - i. *“Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When either a man or woman consecrates an offering to take the vow of a Nazirite, to separate himself to the LORD, he shall separate himself from wine and similar drink; he shall drink neither vinegar made from wine nor vinegar made from similar drink; neither shall he drink any grape juice, nor eat fresh grapes or raisins.”* - Num. 6:1-3
 - ii. **[Samson, Samual, & John the Baptist]**
- d. Pastors *“This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous”* - 1 Tim. 3:1-3

- i. Compare *“Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money”* – 8
 - ii. Leaders vs. servants
- 3. “What does this have to do with us?”
 - a. *“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”* – 1 Pet. 2:9
 - b. This doesn’t mean necessarily that we are to abstain, but it is worth noting that God would want those who draw close to Him was to abstain...
 - c. We too are to be set apart for God.
 - d. *“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”* – 2 Cor. 7:1
- 4. *So the use of drugs & alcohol wouldn’t be the best choice...*
- ii. Could this be destructive to my body?
 - 1. It leads to dissipation
 - a. *“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit”* – Eph. 5:18
 - b. This is to live wastefully and foolishly
 - c. Drugs & alcohol will lead to a ruined life.
 - d. **[Liver diseases, heart problems, DUI, reckless deaths]**

2. It leads to reckless living
 - a. *“Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor, Pressing him to your bottle, Even to make him drunk, That you may look on his nakedness!”* – Hab. 2:15
 - b. **[Broken homes, unwanted pregnancies, & STD’s]**
 3. We are accountable with what we do to our bodies
 - a. *“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”* – 1 Cor. 6:19-20
 - b. As temples of the Holy Spirit we must be cautious of what we consume
 4. ***So the use of drugs & alcohol can lead to harm to our bodies.***
- iii. **Will this affect my sobriety?**
1. We are called to be alert of the times we live in & of our Adversary
 2. *“But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 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.”* – 1 Thess. 5:4-8
3. *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour”* – 1 Pet. 5:8
 4. ***However, drugs & alcohol rob us of a clear and sober mind...***
- iv. **Is this going to cause offense?**
1. We are responsible for our actions around others.
 2. We must be careful not to do anything to offend other Christians.
 3. *“But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.”* – 1 Cor. 8:9
 4. *“Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother’s way. I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense. 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.”* – Rom. 14:13-21

5. We must also be cautious of our testimony to the world.
 - a. *“You mustn’t let something that is all right for you look like an evil practice to somebody else.”* – Rom. 14:16 (Phillips)
 - b. *“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.”* – 1 Cor. 10:31-33

6. ***Drugs & alcohol do have the potential to ruin our relationships with others.***

v. Am I absolutely sure this is OK?

1. *“But those who eat something without being sure it is right are wrong because they did not believe it was right. Anything that is done without believing it is right is a sin.”* – Rom. 14:23 NCV
2. Can you honestly take a drug or drink some alcohol without feeling the slightest bit of reservation?
3. If you can’t do something with all your heart, then it should be done!
4. ***If drugs & alcohol weighs on your conscience, then it shouldn’t be done...***

Conclusion

- A. Have you dealt with this issue?
- B. Have you found the One who gives true freedom?