

QUESTION: What Does the Bible Say About Drinking?

ANSWER: The Bible does not say that drinking alcoholic beverages is wrong, because people drank wine with most of their meals. In many countries and cultures today, people will have a glass of wine or beer with a meal. **What the Bible does say is wrong is drunkenness**, and drinking what we would call hard liquor. It talks about those who stay up late drinking mixed drinks, or strong drink, or those who look at the wine longingly, and drink too much of it, and get drunk. For those of us who are "recovering alcoholics", we should never drink anything alcoholic ever again, because we aren't able to handle it. A rule of thumb for that would be: **If you have EVER used alcohol to get high, buzzed or drunk**, you should not try to go back to being a "social drinker", because it won't work. The taste or smell of the wine or beer will trigger old thoughts, feelings and habits, and even if it doesn't happen that day, it will lead you back down the wrong path. **People who have NEVER used alcohol to get drunk**, but just drink a glass of wine or beer with dinner, are able to handle it, and it is not a sin. **It is DRUNKENNESS that is a SIN, and this would apply NOT ONLY to just alcohol, but to any DRUGS a person uses to get "high" or intoxicated.** Here are just a few of the many verses of Scripture against drunkenness:

- **Proverbs 20:1** "Wine is a mocker, **intoxicating drink** arouses brawling (fighting), and whoever is LED ASTRAY by it is **NOT WISE.**"
- **Proverbs 23:29-35** "Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions (fights, arguments)? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? **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 (poisonous snake).** Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things. Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying, 'they have struck me, but I was not hurt; they have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that **I may SEEK another DRINK?**'""
- **Proverbs 31:4-5** "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."
- **Isaiah 5:11 & 22** "Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may follow **intoxicating drink;** who continue until night, **till wine inflames them!**" (Verse 22) "Woe to **men mighty at drinking wine,** woe to men valiant for **mixing intoxicating drink.**"
- **Luke 21:34** "But take heed to yourselves (watch out), lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing (partying), **drunkenness,** and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly."
- **Romans 13:12-14** "The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us WALK (**conduct our lives**) properly, as in the day, **NOT in revelry (partying) and DRUNKENNESS,** not in licentiousness and lewdness, not in strife and envy, but **put on the Lord Jesus Christ,** and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."
- **Galatians 5:19-21** "Now **the WORKS of the FLESH** are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, **sorcery (witchcraft, but also DRUG use),** hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, **DRUNKENNESS, revelries (partying)** and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."
- **Ephesians 5:17-18** "Therefore do not be **UNWISE,** but **understand** what **the will of the Lord** is. And **do NOT be DRUNK with wine,** in which is **dissipation;** but BE FILLED with the Spirit,"

- **I Corinthians 5:11** "But now I have written to you **NOT to keep company with** anyone named a brother (calling himself a Christian), who is a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, **or a DRUNKARD**, or an extortioner - not even to eat with such a person."
- **I Thessalonians 5:7** "For those who sleep, sleep at night, and **those who get DRUNK are DRUNK at night.**"

Definitions: "DISSIPATION" & "UNWISE" - Dissipation means "to use up foolishly", being **WASTEFUL**, aimless living, "extravagant **pursuit of pleasure**", which is **NOT WISE** use of our time here on earth.