

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS



What do you think about alcohol and getting drunk? What do your parents, or other adults believe? Do they know the recommended weekly limit for drinking alcohol? Do you know what this means in practice?



What do you know about drugs? What about the effects of drugs / the effects? What about the classification of drugs?

Question - Why do people take drugs and / or get drunk?

FACTS:

Government figures (2014-2015) show that alcohol misuse costs the NHS a massive £3.5 billion a year. The cost of crime related to alcohol is estimated to be £8 billion to £13 billion annually. In 2016, research from Public Health England, showed that alcohol abuse costs the UK economy up to £52 billion every year.

BIBLE STORIES ON ALCOHOL -

- 1. Gen 9.20-25:** Noah became a farmer, planted a vineyard and got drunk ending up naked on his bed. Ham, the youngest son discovered him naked and told his brothers Shem and Japeth who got a blanket, walked backwards into Noah's tent and put the blanket over him. Noah woke up, hungover and/or drunk and cursed Ham and blessed Shem & Japeth (Abraham is in lineage from Shem, Gen 11.26)
- 2. John 2.1-11:** The Wedding at Cana where Jesus turned water into wine. Jesus was obedient to his mother, her faith in him was demonstrated and as verse 11 says, 'There he showed his glory and his followers believed in him.'

Question - What can we learn from these stories?

PROVERBS ON ALCOHOL - What do you make of these 2 proverbs?

- Proverbs 20.1:** 'Wine is a mocker and beer is a brawler.'
- Prov 23.20-21:** 'Don't drink too much wine or eat too much food. Those who drink and eat too much become poor.'

BIBLE TEACHING -

The Bible doesn't directly say completely cut out alcohol, though many Christians do. However, it does warn of drunkenness. We will see that there are also high standards for leaders.

Read the following Bible verses carefully:

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| Luke 21.34 - | Ephesians 5.18 - | Romans 13.13-14 - |
| Galatians 5.19, 21 - | 1 Peter 4.2-3 - | |

What do these verses teach? _____

DRUGS / WEED INFO -

Some people say that we can smoke Cannabis because God made all things, plants. Can you think of an argument against this? (There is one!)



DRUGS NOTE - Cannabis can be addictive psychologically. It causes long-term mental health damage. Only a small percentage of young people will go on to use harder drugs from cannabis use. Most realise the dangers from cocaine, crack, heroin. Few young people use speed, ecstasy and LSD etc. Many young people grow out of drug use, but not all.

Do the Drugs Quiz PDF - ask questions out loud and ask for answers

LEADERSHIP -

Read 1 Timothy 3.3 and Titus 1.7. In these passages we see the standards required of elders, spiritual leaders of churches. Do not drink too much (wine) is the advice. Above all, as church leaders there must be a higher standard of right living and an integrity above question.

WARNINGS -

In 1 Corinthians 5.1, Paul warns the believers not to eat with those who claim to be believers but who sin by ‘.. being greedy.. getting drunk.. cheating people.’

In 1 Corinthians 6.10 Paul warns that people who do wrong won’t inherit God’s Kingdom - these people include those who are greedy or get drunk..

BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT - Ephesians 5.18 and Acts 2.15

As suggested in **Eph 5.18**, being drunk can produce a similar effect to being filled with the Holy Spirit.

QUESTION - Can we be filled with both the Spirit and filled with alcohol at the same time?

In Acts 2.15 after the apostles had been filled with the Spirit they were obviously acting strangely as people thought they were drunk!

THE POSITIVE SIDE - Matthew 11.9

There can be a positive side to having a drink. Jesus enjoyed going to social events and enjoying himself. Wine often played a major part at these events. In **Matt 11.19**, there was criticism of Jesus, ‘..look at him, he drinks too much wine and is a friend of tax collectors and sinners..’

QUESTION - Some people say the wine was non-alcoholic, what do you think?

In 1 Timothy 5.33, Paul suggests to Timothy that he drinks a little wine for the stomach. Today I guess we’d take Rennies or something! (Does this suggest Timothy didn’t normally drink?)

QUESTION - Can you think of other ways that alcohol / drinking alcohol can be a positive thing?

GOD’S LOVE - Song of Solomon / Songs 1.2

Song of Solomon is a story of two lovers - but also a reflection of Jesus’ love for his church. In 1.2, we read, ‘Your love is better than wine.’ God’s love is better than alcohol & drugs. Ephesians 5.18 encourages us to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit, who is eternal, rather than the next party, which is temporary! You don’t want to do anything which makes you less fired up for God !

QUESTION - Does being drunk or on harmful drugs tally with the fruit of the Spirit, Gal 5.22-23?

REMEMBER we don’t want to do anything that causes a brother or sister in Christ to sin. What do you think this means in practice? **Read 1 Cor 8.9-13** (context is food but principle is wider than that)