

Tuesday, May 26, 2015 - I Want to Party...

Every day, especially this time of year, we read of countless souls lost on account of alcohol. Welcome to the "party" generation. At the root of this generation is the most popular and most frequently used drug in our nation: alcohol. Within the Lord's church, too many try to justify their use of that which study after study shows causes diminished mental capacity even after one drink. Alcohol caused problems for ancient Israel, and it still does today. It is the drug of choice. It is the grease on the party wheel.

The 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health reported that 51 percent of Americans aged 12 or older were current drinkers of alcohol. That translated to an estimated 120 million people. If that is not enough to scare us, the same survey also concluded that over 64 percent of full-time college students reported drinking alcohol in the month prior to the survey. DO you think we have a problem with underage drinking in this country?

Fourteen hundred college students die each year from alcohol-related accidents. Another 500,000 students are injured each year while under the influence of alcohol. Every year alcohol is determined to be a contributing factor to thousands of assaults, sex crimes, suicide attempts, and acts of vandalism involving college students. But don't people look so cool with that beer bottle or wine glass? (sarcasm) We need to wake up to the fact that anything stated as a positive or acceptable about alcohol is another of Satan's lies.

"Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, Woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink" (Isa. 5:22). This verse is condemning to those who drink. In fact, nothing good is said in the Bible about intoxicating drink. Yet, the lure to drink alcohol has never been stronger. It is glamorized by Hollywood and made cool by constant marketing in the media. Christian values are under attack.

In August 2014, I wrote an article similar to this and a good friend commented, "I always go back to being a stumbling block to someone...If you met some new converts, or new members on Sunday, then you run into them at Kroger with a 12 pack of beer in your cart how could you justify that? People always want to say, oh I'm just drinking one...It's not making me drunk...But what is it saying about the church? Aren't we supposed to be different from the world?" AMEN!

"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Holy Spirit dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple are you." (1 Cor. 3:16-17)

Drunkenness must be considered a process. It must be seen in degrees of drunkenness. It is incorrect to say that there is some line between "tipsy" and "drunk" for they are the same thing, only different in degree. The existence of "drunkenness" is not determined by amount. However, the degree of drunkenness is determined by amount. One may be more drunk than another, but we are still discussing a degree of drunkenness. Even after the FIRST DRINK, we no longer discuss whether a person is sober or drunk--only how drunk he is!

Many people believe that alcoholic drinks other than hard liquor do little harm to their body. This is wrong! Ethyl alcohol is poison. The cells in your brain and nervous system are very delicate and easily damaged. It is natural that they would be most easily damaged.

The consumption of alcohol violates every biblical passage which views the body as the "temple of the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor. 6:19), as an instrument of righteousness (Rom. 6:12-13), and as a living sacrifice unto God (Rom. 12:1). No devout Christian can bow his head and offer thanks to his Creator before drinking alcohol.

It is the clear teaching of Scripture that Christians are not to just acknowledge a higher standard, but to live to the higher standard. It is a standard of purity and holiness. The standard is convincingly set forth throughout the Word of God.

Some will say, I might lose my friends? May I suggest it is better than losing your soul for ALL ETERNITY?