

## Jesus and Alcohol Ephesians 5:18

### Jesus the wine maker

#### John 2:1-5

- Matthew 9:10-11 John 17:18
- Shame - Romans 8:1 Romans 5:1-2

#### John 2:6-11

### The Bible teaches that drunkenness is a sin

- Ephesians 5:18 Galatians 5:19-20

### Three views within Christianity

#### Legalistic view: Drinking any amount of alcohol is a sin.

1. Wine doesn't really mean wine. - Acts 2:13
2. Biblical wine was watered down  
Jewish Talmud:  
"two parts water to one part wine"  
"three parts water to one part wine."
  - Wine was the normal beverage at meals in the Greco-Roman world. Generally it was so strong that it was diluted with water to improve the taste. ~ Burge, Gary M. The NIV Application Commentary.
3. They had to drink wine because you could not drink the water.
4. Nazarites could not drink wine so we should not either.
  - Numbers 6:2-3

#### But... In many places in the Bible God approves the drinking of alcohol.

- The lack of wine is viewed as a judgment from God (Jer 48:33; Lam 2:12; Hos 2:9; Joel 1:10; Hag 2:16)
- Abundant wine is viewed as a blessing from the Lord (cf. Gen 27:28; Deut 7:13; 11:14; Joel 2:19, 24; 3:18; Amos 9:13-14). Cf. also Isa 55:1; Jer 31:12; Zech 9:17.
- Proverbs 3:9-10 Psalm 104:14-15
- Deut 14:25-26, Isaiah 25:6

- Alcohol was created to help commemorate the significant moments of life...God gave us wine to remember, not to forget. - Tony Kriz

### Jesus drank wine

- Matthew 11:19
- Last Supper: Mark 14:23-25
- By the time of the first century, every adult was obliged to have four glasses of wine during the Passover celebration. Jesus and his disciples did this in the Last Supper. ~ Daniel B. Wallace, Th.M., Ph.D.

### The Reactionist View: Drinking alcohol is not sinful but ALL Christians should avoid drinking out of example, love for others and a desire to not cause anyone to stumble.

- 40% of people have a family member who is an alcoholic.
  1. You can't argue for a total prohibition from Scripture.
  2. There is a need for examples of how to drink responsibly
  3. Abuses are not erased by elimination.
- "Do not suppose that abuses are eliminated by destroying the object which is abused. Men can go wrong with wine and women. Shall we then prohibit and abolish women? The sun, the moon, and the stars have been worshiped. Shall we then pluck them out of the sky?" - Martin Luther
- Hosea 2:8 1 Corinthians 10:31
- Church History Trivia

### The Biblical View: Drinking alcohol is not a sin. To drink or not to drink is a matter of personal Christian conscious.

- Romans 14:1-4, 14-16, 20-23
- "An individual Christian may see fit to give up all sorts of things for special reasons—marriage, or meat, or beer, or the cinema; but the moment he starts saying the things are bad in themselves, or looking down his nose at other people who use them, he has taken the wrong turning." - C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity
- Romans 15:7