

The Danger of Social Drinking

Scripture Text: Habakkuk 2:15

The goal of this lesson is to inform on what God says in His Word.

This topic is a hot one – even among the Lord’s church *sadly*.

I. Example

The story is told of a county superintendent of education who had three applications to fill a vacancy among the school district bus drivers. He devised the following criteria for selecting the proper driver:

The superintendent took the first applicant to a sharp curve on a steep grade along the road and asked, “How close can you drive the bus to the edge of the road on the curve without going over the cliff with the children?” The applicant looked and replied, “I believe I can go to within a foot and still be safe.”

The second applicant was asked the same question, he checked the curve, and told the superintendent, “I believe that I can drive within six inches of the edge and not go over the cliff.”

The third applicant was asked the same question, but the superintendent received an entirely different answer from him than the other two. He responded to the question by saying, “Do you think I’m crazy? I’m not interested in seeing how close I can get to the edge with the bus. I’d be trying to see how far I could keep away from the edge of the road with the bus.” The applicant got the job.

There’s a spiritual lesson for us in the above story. Too many professed Christians are like the first two applicants in the above story. They think in terms of how “close” they can come to the edge of the road on the curve [to sin] without going over the cliff [without sinning]. Instead of looking into God’s word, seeing how far they can “stay away” from sin (1 Thessalonians 5:22 NKJV), they engage in questionable practices, such as social drinking.

II. Definitions

- A. “Social Drinking” is defined as “no more than 7 drinks in a week and no more than 3 drinks per sitting.” National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
- B. “It’s just one drink!” Brown.edu (Princeton, RI): **1 drink = 12 oz. beer** [5% alcohol] = **8-9 Fl oz. malt liquor** [7% alcohol] = **5 Fl oz. wine** [12% alcohol] = **1.5 Fl oz. shot 8- proof distilled whiskey** [40% alcohol]
- C. Statistics
 1. In 1990, 51% conservative Christians drank; 19.3% weekly drinkers.
 2. Dept. of Justice: 4 in 10 violent crimes involve alcohol.
 3. Dept. of Health & Human Services: alcohol involved in 2/3 of all sexual assaults and rapes among adolescents and college students.

4. Mothers Against Drunk Driving: someone is killed every 45 minutes by a drunk driver.
- D. Consuming alcohol:
1. Brown.edu: “different people will process alcohol at different rates. This means you could have the same number of drinks as a friend but feel greater effects from the alcohol than they do.”
 2. In Tennessee (and nationwide), the Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) level for “legally intoxicated” is 0.08%.
 - a. This is determined by milligram of alcohol per milligram of blood.
 - b. BAC of 0.10% is 1 part alcohol for every 1000 parts blood.
 - c. BAC of 0.02% results in partial loss of judgment, mood changes, relaxation, mild body warmth.
 - d. NIAAA: 0.31-0.45% can be life threatening.
 - e. Alcohol poisoning occurs at 0.250-0.399%. 2200 pass annually.
 3. Chart from the California Department of Motor Vehicles: tiny.cc/socialdrink

III. Biblical Reasons Not to Drink

- A. The Christian is commanded not to – Ephesians 5:18.
- B. It weakens your resolve against sin – 2 Corinthians 5:13.
 1. Sober: of a sound mind, to curb one’s passions.
 2. Also used in Titus 2:6; 1 Peter 4:7.
- C. It is destructive to the body – it slowly kills and at sometimes swiftly kills.
 1. 1 Corinthians 6:19 – glorify God through good works.
 2. Matthew 6:33 – seek God first
- D. It is an addictive substance.
 1. Isaiah 5:11
 2. 1 Corinthians 6:12
- E. It is a poor influence
 1. 2 Corinthians 6:17-18. 1 in 5 kids drink because of mom or dad drinking.
 2. 2 Corinthians 5:17 – put away childish things.
 3. Matthew 5:14-16. Statistically the more someone drinks the weaker their relationship to Christ.

- F. It is a stumbling block.
 - 1. Romans 14:21
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 8:13, cf. Matthew 18:6

Dear friends, the next time you are confronted with an option to drink, social drink, or be associated with alcohol, remember 1 Thessalonians 5:22!

What do I do now if I social drink? **Repent, Remove the alcohol/temptation, and Resolve to live better!**

Use this lesson to encourage faithfulness from others.

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