

Alcohol and Drugs

The Bible tells us not to be drunk, not to use alcohol during specific times, and not to be a habitual drinker so that it effects our jobs, our time with our family and friends, or our ability to be productive. A person who cannot control their use of alcohol should not drink alcohol at all. The Bible is our standard for the use of alcohol. The definition of being drunk is understood to excessively drink to the point that it impairs our decision making or the ability to function properly. While the point at which this is debatable, the accepted healthy and general rule for the use of alcohol is no more than one ounce per hour of strong liquor with a maximum of four one-ounce drinks in an evening.¹ Again, the Bible says don't get drunk.

It is not acceptable to drink throughout the day every day. Drinking holidays do not give us permission to get drunk. We should not encourage a person who does not want to drink to drink. We should not be a stumbling block; namely, we should be careful not to cause someone to sin in regards to drinking alcohol. Each person is responsible to God to drink responsibly. There are times we should be careful to drink moderately or not at all; especially when driving a car.

A person needs to realize that the abuse of alcohol can have an effect on a person's health, their family, their job, and their ability to function normally. Therefore, it is important to understand our limitations and when are the appropriate times for consumption of alcohol. For example, it is very wrong to overindulge in drinking so that it impairs our ability to function properly or our detrimentally effects our relationships.

Drugs can also be used in an inappropriate way. Being addicted to drugs is not acceptable, but some people have to take addictive drugs for pain. Drugs that impairs our ability to function properly or detrimentally effects our relationships is also wrong unless they are needed for pain. Any abuse of strong intoxication drugs is wrong. We will all stand before God who knows our hearts and He knows if we are using medications improperly. Our consciences need to provide the proper guidance for the use of medications. Medications should be used properly.

There are different attitudes and laws that influence the use of alcohol and drugs. The government allows us to purchase alcoholic beverages, but puts no limitations on its usage. That doesn't mean that we shouldn't. The government in some cases allows the use of intoxicating drugs. Drugs like marijuana are intoxicating drugs and are wrong to use. It is better to drink less intoxicating beverages like beer or a less intoxicating wine. One should be careful to limit their use of more intoxicating beverages. Even the Talmud says that it is better to drink a less intoxicating wine. Wine was a common drink for families in ancient times and did not always have high alcohol content.

Sometimes alcohol has been used for medicinal purposes. There can be a calming effect and it also can give some pain relief. Giving alcohol to minors as part of a family meal or religious activity is permissible, but not encouraged. Encouraging minors to drink alcohol is wrong because they haven't developed discerning abilities in this area. Minors should be instructed in the proper use of alcohol and drugs.

Some scriptures about drinking alcohol:

Wine can be used for medicinal purposes. 1 Timothy 5:23

Wine is to be enjoyed. Ecclesiastes 9:7; Psalm 104:14-15

It is wrong to overindulge in alcohol so we lose control. Proverbs 20:1

Do not get drunk. Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:19-21

Use your time better. Ephesians 5:18 KJV.

¹ According to a British government report.