

DRINKING Pt. 1

Some of you are probably not going to like me very much after this sermon. It is my hope that you will share this sermon with your family and friends and on your social media. Many of those we know and love have fallen prey to this sin. Drinking excessively, habitually is a sin against God. Spiritually, heavy drinking or alcoholism is an open door that gives satan a legal right to come in to the drinkers life and wreak havoc on them.

John 10:10 - The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

I have seen some lives that were destroyed because of drinking. The Biblical stance is against alcoholism, against drinking in excess, against getting drunk all the time.



When you turn to alcohol or beer you are checking out of life. Maybe you just want to forget your problems for a while but once you sober up the problems are still right where you left them. God tells us to cast all our cares (worries) on Him.

(1 Peter 5:7)



Some people are social drinkers. They think it's no big deal to have a drink with friends or when they go out on the weekends or to parties. I warn you not to participate in that, for you, it might become an addiction that you cannot overcome.

Our families, friends and those around us watch our lives, you don't want to cause anyone to stumble because they know you profess to be a Christian and yet they see you take a drink. **(1 Cor.8:9, Romans 14:13-23)** Maybe you never drink but the one time you decide to have a drink, could be the time they see you. They could see you at a restaurant or run into you buying alcohol in the grocery store. You don't want anything to stain your Christianity in the eyes of anyone else.

And furthermore, if your friends drink all the time, then you should keep better company. You are known by the company you keep and the Bible says that bad company corrupts good morals. **(1 Cor.15:33, Prov.13:20)** They will keep you away from Jesus.



Some want to get a buzz or a high from drinking and in the end it often leads to this.



She looks pretty miserable to me.



Getting drunk leads to arguments with your spouse and problems in the home. My dad loved to drink when he and my mom first got married. My dad would leave my mom at home with us kids while he went out drinking with his buddies and the guys he worked with. My dad was a brawler and one time he got in an argument with one of his buddies and shot him in the head at the beer joint. Praise The Lord the guy lived. I don't think my dad got into much trouble over it either so who knows what really went down there but I was too little to know anything about all that. My mom and dad used to get into really bad fights about his drinking.

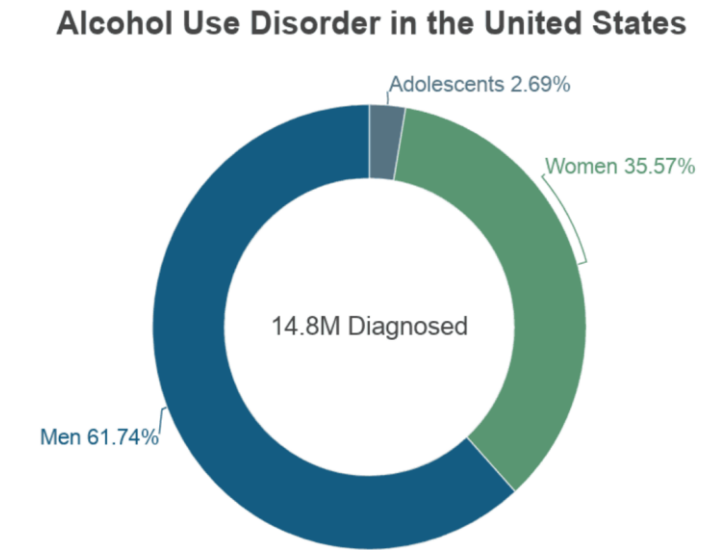
\$253.8 Billion

U.S. Beverage Alcohol Spending Hits **\$253.8 Billion** in 2018, +5.1% versus 2017. Consumers continued to increase spending in the beverage alcohol category with overall spending at **\$253.8 Billion** – an increase of **\$12.4 Billion, +5.1%**. Jan 13, 2019

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U.S. Beverage Alcohol Spending Hits \$253.8 Billion in 2018, + ...

U.S. Beverage alcohol spending hits \$ 253.8 billion in 2018, up 5.1% versus 2017. Look at all that money spent for satan's kingdom. This doesn't even count all the money spent on DWI's.



Alcohol use disorder in the United States. Adolescents 2.69%, Women 35.57%, Men 61.74%. 14.8 million diagnosed. Alcoholism is a big deal. It affects everyone, even adolescents. These stats are based on those who have been diagnosed. There are millions more who have never been diagnosed.



Drinking affects your parenting. Don't think it doesn't or that you manage it well enough that it isn't affecting things. There are lasting affects that you don't even realize from what you do and say. Or from what you don't do, not keeping your word, not being present because you are sleeping off a hangover or because you are going to hang out with your friends who drink like you, leaving your family behind. Maybe you stay home but you are drinking or drunk a lot of the time. As parents, you do not want to cause your children to stumble by following in your footsteps if you are an alcoholic. I have heard more than one young boy say proudly that his dad drinks beer.

Alcohol consumption can negatively impact the cardiovascular system in a variety of ways. Heavy alcohol use causes 9,000 deaths per year from heart disease and stroke,⁷⁶ and even low levels of use are associated with increased risk for hypertension,⁷⁷ arrhythmias,⁷⁸ heart attack,⁷⁹ and stroke. Apr 10, 2023



National Institutes of Health (.gov)

<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov> › core-resource-on-alcohol

Medical Complications: Common Alcohol-Related Concerns

Alcohol consumption can negatively impact the cardiovascular system in a variety of ways. Heavy alcohol use causes 9,000 deaths per year from heart disease and stroke, and even low levels of use are associated with increased risk for hypertension, arrhythmias, heart attack, and stroke. NIH (however much we can trust their stats – who knows) Habitual and excessive drinking can shorten your life span. Not to mention the people who die from accidents caused by drunk drivers. Alcohol is not for Christians.

When you drink, satan is stealing your life away right from under your nose. He is keeping you from God's best by keeping you bound in this sin. satan destroys lives through drinking. He breaks down homes and splits up families. He ruins relationships. He takes jobs and opportunities away, drains your bank account and chips away at your health until he can break it down completely. He is killing you, whether slowly or quickly through habitual drinking and alcoholism.

A lot of people try to defend drinking because it's in the Bible. This next passage of Scripture is Apostle Paul speaking to Timothy.

1 Tim.5:23 - Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

Notice it says a little wine. He was not encouraging Timothy to be a wino.

Some people try to defend their drinking by saying, "Well Jesus drank wine." Jesus turned the water into wine at the wedding of Cana. And we know He drank

wine at the last supper. HOWEVER, Jesus did not get drunk and He was not an alcoholic or a habitual drinker. Wine is mentioned all through the Bible and I have heard many teachings explaining that the wine in Biblical days was not comparable to the strong wines and alcohol we have today. I believe that. I believe the process of making alcohol has been perfected and that more alcohol is added into everything than it ever was back then.

We will drink wine in heaven. This next passage of Scripture is Jesus speaking to His apostles at the last supper.

Matt.26:29 – But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.

What a joyous celebration that is going to be! But get it straight, they were not lying on the floor drunk out of their minds so that they were slurring their words and could not walk. That's not how it was and that's not how it will be in heaven either.

The Bible warns us not to get drunk. Heed this warning. I encourage you never to drink, because there are many that get caught in the clutches of alcoholism. It is better not to drink at all, never to take that first drink, than to chance being someone whom satan gets a grip on and causes you to be addicted to alcohol. You may be that person who cannot just drink a casual glass of wine here or there but has to have it all the time. You may become addicted to beer and have to have it every single day. I know someone that - that happened to. You may be in the clutches of hard liquor, even drinking beer all time will ruin your life just the same.

1 Peter 4:1-3 – Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. For the time past of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same

excess of riot, speaking evil of *you*: Who shall give account to Him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

Excess of wine was something the pagans practiced and Apostle Paul just listed so many things that they as Christians were not to be practicing any more. He ends by saying those that still practice those things are going to give an account to Jesus for what they do.

Notice it says the one who suffers in the flesh hath ceased from sin. Let's look at the NLT to understand that better.

New Living Translation

1 Peter 4:1 - So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude He had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin.

This is a mature concept that may be hard to understand. Usually by the time you are suffering physically in your body for Christ, you are a serious and mature Christian and you have decided to bear up under whatever satan brings against you or whatever tests and trials you have to face and go through all for God's glory. Many people will fall away if they have to suffer anything for God's glory or because of the Word (**Mark 4:17**) and that is why only mature Christians will understand that passage and persevere. There are all kinds of suffering in this world but not all suffering is for God's glory. If you are not a sincere Christian any suffering you endure is not on account of Christ.

Eph.5:18 - And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

That's very straight forward. Do not get drunk, instead be filled with, baptized into and sealed by The Holy Spirit Who will help you to live a righteous life that pleases God. And being filled with The Spirit is not being compared to being drunk as many have perversely taught. Being filled with the Spirit does not make you act like a drunk person. Anyone doing crazy things and saying The Holy Spirit made them do it is really just acting out of the flesh.

Romans 13:13 – Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

1 Thess.5:6-9 - Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

We are told time and again to be sober. That is to have our wits and faculties about us, to be of sound mind, in our right mind, not drunk but sober. Alcohol is a mind altering drug.

CLOSING

Gal.5:19-21 – Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Those who stay drunk all the time will not inherit the Kingdom of God which means they will not be in heaven.

Anything is possible with God, He can break your addiction off just from sincere prayer, or from fasting and prayer, or from your growing and maturing in the faith and being empowered by The Holy Spirit to overcome, or through deliverance or self deliverance. There are many ways God can work to set you free when you seek Him sincerely.

PRAYER

<https://drugabusestatistics.org/alcohol-abuse-statistics/>