

THE DANGERS OF DRUNKENNESS

Alcohol results when sugar reacts with yeast during fermentation.

Though there are different kinds of alcohol, the kind in an alcoholic beverage is *ethyl alcohol*. It can produce a variety of feelings, alter moods, affect the physical body and become addicting.

Inhibitions are the first to be suppressed when alcohol is consumed, which results in talking more, becoming disorderly and acting foolishly. *Time* is the only way to rid the body of alcohol after it has been consumed—approximately one hour per ounce of alcohol. As little as **one or two** drinks can adversely affect a driver's judgment and reaction time.

Drunkenness (and/or alcoholism) is a very serious problem in our society. The statistics associated with drinking alcohol are both alarming and disturbing, especially from a Christian point of view:

- ✓ **In America alone there are 14,000,000 people who are alcoholics.**
- ✓ Among 15 year olds, girls binge drink at a rate almost the same as that of the boys.
- ✓ 20% of the **suicides** are alcoholics.
- ✓ 50% of **all** traffic fatalities are related to alcohol abuse.
- ✓ 1/3 of **all** traffic accidents are related to alcohol abuse.
- ✓ 50% of **all** homicides in the USA are related to alcohol abuse.
- ✓ The average American consumes **more beer than coffee or milk.**
- ✓ Alcohol **increases the risk** of car accidents, drowning, violence and physical diseases.
- ✓ **Any** alcohol consumption during pregnancy is **risky** for the offspring.
- ✓ 40% of school students consumed alcohol **before** age 13.
- ✓ **Over 3,000,000 teenagers in the 14-17** year age bracket in America are problem drinkers.
- ✓ 62% of high school seniors say they have been drunk.
- ✓ 44% of **all** college students binge drink, that is, drink to get drunk.
- ✓ School students consume **more alcohol than smoke cigarettes.**

- ✓ Single car fatal accidents are **3 times higher** at night among 15-20 year olds than other fatal crashes.
- ✓ Non-Hispanic whites aged 15-20 binge drink **more** than other racial groups.
- ✓ Males are **nearly three times** more likely to be problem drinkers than females.
- ✓ People with drinking problems have a **higher** rate of divorce.

The physical dangers of alcohol consumption include:

- ✓ Liver damage especially, but also brain, heart, bone marrow and gastrointestinal tract. Such can lead to cancer, high blood pressure, stroke, heart attack, cirrhosis, nerve problems, etc. When the liver is affected *nutrition* is also adversely impacted which will hurt the entire body.
- ✓ Becoming overweight. One glass of wine daily can add 10 pounds a year to your weight.

The Greatest Danger

It is apparent that a wide variety of temporal problems stem from drinking alcohol, as just shown. The above cited dangers and sufferings for the drunk, however, are inconsequential and almost not even worth mentioning compared to the **greatest danger in the entire universe**—that of being thrown **into the lake of burning sulfur**, which is *forever*.

There are only two possible eternal destinies. If one doesn't *inherit* the kingdom of God he will be thrown into the lake of fire, and **drunkenness can prevent one from inheriting the kingdom of God:**

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; **drunkenness**, orgies, and the like. **I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God** (Gal. 5:19-21).

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexuals nor thieves nor the greedy nor **drunkards** nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And **that is what some of you were**. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

According to the above passage, “once an alcoholic, always an alcoholic” is not true. It says *that is what they were* (past tense), but now they were different having been washed, sanctified and justified in the name of Lord Jesus and by the Holy Spirit. Drunkards don’t need *rehabilitation* to get freed from alcohol addiction. They need **salvation**, which will immediately set them free from sin’s slavery and change their spiritual identity. **Furthermore, there is no such thing as a Christian alcoholic since drunkards will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

Jesus similarly taught about drunkenness:

But suppose the servant says to himself, “My master is taking a long time in coming,” and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get **drunk**. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. **He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers** (Luke 12:45, 46).

This last passage, among many others, refutes the teaching of eternal security for it is written about those who had been saved in the past.

Four More Facts About Drunkenness

1 It leads to debauchery:

Do not get **drunk** on wine, which **leads to debauchery**. Instead, be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18).

2 It brings woe, sorrow, strife, complaints, needless bruises and bloodshot eyes:

Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? **Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine**. Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when **it goes down smoothly!** **In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper**. Your eyes will see strange sights and your mind imagine confusing things. You will be like one sleeping on the high seas, lying on top of the rigging. “They hit me,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt! They beat me, but I don’t feel it! When will I wake up so I can find another drink?” (Prov. 23:29-35)

3 It reveals those who do get drunk as unwise:

Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise (Prov. 20:1).

4 It disqualifies a person from spiritual leadership:

Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to **drunkenness**, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money (1 Tim. 3:2, 3).

Since an overseer is entrusted with God’s work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to **drunkenness**, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain (Titus 1:7).

Miscellaneous Biblical Truths About Drunkenness

Woe to those who rise early in the morning to run after their drinks, who stay up late at night till they are inflamed with wine. They have harps and lyres at their banquets, tambourines and flutes and **wine**, but they have no regard for the deeds of the LORD, no respect for the work of his hands (Isa. 5:11,12).

Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and **drunkenness**, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature (Rom. 13:13,14).

It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall (Rom. 14:21).

Often people drink alcohol to numb their painful situations, with no thoughts of their final destination beyond the grave. There is, however, a much better way to find relief, which is also 100% safe. **That way is to come to God on his terms, that is, turn from your sins (repent) and place 100% of your trust in Jesus alone for your salvation. Unashamedly and faithfully follow him until your physical death to avoid being hurt by the second death or lake of fire. To turn to God from your idols will set you free from sin’s bondage, give you great peace within and the greatest purpose to live on earth—to serve God.**

Many true Christians in our present time used to be alcoholics. They have been set free from their ungodly desires for alcohol and have been drinking living water that only Jesus can give. The same can be you! These basic simple truths are thousands of years old but still work today just like they did initially.

You are invited to a new life in Christ. The choice is yours. God bless you.

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