

Alcohol & Drugs

Sermon Series: Taboo Topics & The Gospel

1 Corinthians 10:29-32

Drugs

Anything that is not used as intended by a doctor or medical professional is always illegal and always sin.

Alcohol

- Abuse: Teen drinking, frat parties, rape, etc.
- Many people enjoy a glass of wine or craft beer WITHOUT abuse.
- The Church is often confused on this issue!
- **Some believers make a big deal about abstinence. Others glorify drinking and ignore problems.**

1 Corinthians 10:29-32 “I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience? If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks? So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. “

- Views on Alcohol
- Prohibition Era

Proverbs 20:1 “Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.”

- Beer muscles. DUIs. Brawls. Date rape. These things can happen. So let's just prohibit alcohol, right?

Psalms 104:14-15 “You cause the grass to grow for livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart.”

- Wine can be used to worship God. So can good food, sex, money and many other things.

Deuteronomy 14:25-26 “and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household.”

Proverbs 3:9-10 “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine”

- Jesus' first miracle (John 2:1-11) was turning over 100 gallons of water into wine at a weeklong wedding feast. The best wine. There was eating, dancing, drinking. If alcohol is inherently evil, what do we do with Jesus, the Son of God, miraculously turning water into wine?

Matthew 11:19 “The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”

- Jesus hung out with prostitutes, lounged at the dinner table, eating good food with sinners, drank wine, and annoyed religious leaders. And did not sin.
- The prohibition position, from the Bible, does not stand. It is simply untenable.
- Abstention: While drinking is not sinful, all Christians should avoid it out of love for others and a desire to not cause anyone to stumble.

Hosea 2:8 “And she did not know it was I who gave her the grain, the wine, and the oil, and who lavished on her silver and gold, which they used for Baal.”

- God gives food, wine, oil, and riches to be used as worship. Our temptation is to use what God intended for good to worship ourselves.
- We are not to be a stumbling block (Romans 14) but what does that mean?
- Jesus did not worry about causing the religious to stumble by being around wine. He built bridges, not barriers, with His social interactions, and yet without sin.
- **Paul saved his strongest warnings for those who would bind others in legalism!**
- The word for “stumble” means to set a trap for someone.

Where do we land? Moderation.

- Choose to drink or not to drink in moderation.
- We see what the totality of Scripture says and draw a conclusion.
- We cannot impose stricter standards than what Scripture commands upon another believer. This is legalism.
- Alcohol (wine) is from God. God made it and uses it as a blessing.
- And yet, it is not to be abused.

Ephesian 5:18 “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 6:12 “‘All things are lawful for me,’ but not all things are helpful. ‘All things are lawful for me,’ but I will not be dominated by anything.”

- We don’t demand our rights and cause our brother (who struggles with abuse or addiction) to stumble. We use caution.

Christ is our prize. Not alcohol. Not our self-righteousness from abstaining. Christ is our righteousness and it is HIM we seek above all.