

## Not Given To Much Wine

### Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the phrase and what it means about drinking of alcoholic beverages.
2. In 1 Tim. 3:3, 3:8 Paul is talking about the qualifications of elders and deacons. For elders it says: "not given to wine". For deacons it says: "not given to much wine".
3. Argument is often made that since it says "not given to much wine" that this implies that we can partake of a little wine. Does this mean that God approves of moderate drinking as long as we don't over indulge or abuse drinking?
4. There are many religious people who feel that social drinking is harmless.
  - a. Here is a quote from a church bulletin: "While we voluntarily limit our freedom in this respect, we must at the same time concede that the Christian has the liberty to drink an alcoholic beverage in moderation."
  - b. Some church members consider moderate drinking to be harmless and only excessive drinking to be wrong.
5. One of the arguments used by these people is the use of this phrase "not given to much wine" which they say implies we can drink moderately.
6. Is this right? What does the Bible really teaching about drinking of alcohol?

### Discussion

#### I. THE VERSES

- A. I Tim. 3:3 (KJV) "Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;" (ASV) "no brawler, no striker; but gentle, not contentious, no lover of money;" (ESV) "not a drunkard," (TCNT) "not addicted to drink or brawling"

- B. I Tim. 3:8 (KJV) "Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;" (NKJV) "Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money," (ESV) "not addicted to much wine,"
- C. Tit. 2:3 (KJV) "The aged women likewise, that [they be] in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;" (ASV) "that aged women likewise be reverent in demeanor, not slanderers nor enslaved to much wine, teachers of that which is good;" (ESV) "slaves to much wine"

## **II. WE CANNOT DO WHAT THE BIBLE CONDEMNS**

- A. To argue that the deacon or the older woman can partake of strong drink in moderation is to argue that one can partake in that which the Bible condemns.
- B. The Bible does not approve of that which is evil - the scriptures teach that strong drink is evil / sinful / wrong !
1. Prov. 20:1 "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."
  2. Prov. 21:17 "He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich."
  3. Prov. 23:29 - 32
- C. The scriptures do not sanction strong drink !

D. Drunkards cannot enter heaven

1. Gal. 5:19-21 "Drunkenness" = intoxication
2. I Cor. 6:10 "Drunkards" = tipsy, a sot, to drink to intoxication

E. Why does God condemn it? Strong drink is Harmful !

1. It causes hurt and heartaches and problems.
  - a. It is the number one drug problem in our country.
  - b. It claims at least 100,000 lives in America every year
2. Many killed in accidents by drunk drivers
  - a. Well over half of all deadly traffic accidents are alcohol related
  - b. Alcohol-related car crashes kill someone every 30 minutes and injure someone every two minutes.
  - c. More than 17,000 people are the victims of drunk driving accidents every year.
  - d. Drunk driving accidents cost the public around \$114.3 billion a year
3. Homes and lives are ruined -
  - a. More than 61 million Americans (1 of every 4 families) are affected by some alcohol-related problems such as divorce, violence in the home, crime, sickness and death.
  - b. Alcohol destroys our body, brain, and liver. It is a poison.
4. Suicide rate for alcoholics is 58 times higher than that of non-alcoholics
5. Murders are often committed by people under influence of alcohol.

- F. Drinking alcoholic beverages of any sort in any degree is sinful and deadly!! The difference between a social drinker and a drunkard is only a difference of degree, not a difference of kind.!
- G. Brother Tant answered the question: "Is it all right to drink a little just to be social with my friends? He said: "I suppose it is no more sin to drink a little than it would be to steal a little or lie a little, or whip your wife a little or even kill a man a little!"
- H. Why would a Christian want to be associated in any way with the drinking of alcohol?

### III. IT IS AN UNREASONABLE ARGUMENT

- A. Can a deacon drink alcohol and not an elder?
- B. The elder's wife and the deacon's wife must be sober - 1 Tim. 3:11 " Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things."
1. Sober = means to be free from the influence of intoxicants
  2. She must abstain from wine / alcohol
  3. When she gets older will she then be able to drink as long as it is in moderation?
- C. All Christians are to be sober -
1. I Pet. 1:13 "be sober"
  2. Same word as in 1 Tim. 3:11
- D. Since an elder cannot drink, the elders wife and the deacons wife cannot drink, and Christians are not to drink, does this mean that the only ones who can drink are the deacons and the older women?
- E. What does the passage mean when it says: "not given to much wine" ?

#### IV. NOT ENSLAVED / ADDICTED TO MUCH WINE

A. Tit. 2:3 - KJV "not given to much wine" - ESV "not slaves to much wine"

ASV "nor enslaved to much wine" - TCNT "beware of being slaves to drink"

1. Given [douloo] = to enslave, bring into or be under bondage, become or make a servant
2. Negative precedes given - so do not be a slave or under bondage to strong drink.
3. In Tit. 2:4-5 we have a list of the things which the older woman is to teach the young women.
4. If the older woman drank alcoholic beverage she would not be a good example as a teacher
5. This verse in no way approves of moderate drinking. It is just the opposite. It means to stay away from strong drink.

B. 1 Tim. 3:8 KJV "not given to much wine" - ESV "not addicted to much wine"

RSV "not addicted to much wine" - a literal reading would be: "not to wine much given"

1. The word "given" means addicted to
2. Are we going to argue that deacons are not to be addicted to much wine, but they can be addicted to a little?
3. NO !!! This verse does not suggest that moderate consumption is approved !

## V. COMPARISONS TO ILLUSTRATE ABSURDITY

### A. Husband of one wife

1. I Tim. 3:2 "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;"
2. Does the instructions for elders to be the husband of one wife give license to all other men to practice polygamy? Can other men have more than one wife?

### B. Eccl. 7:17 (KJV) "Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?" (NKJV) "Do not be overly wicked, Nor be foolish: Why should you die before your time?"

1. "Over much wicked" "Overly wicked"
2. Does this suggest the approval of wickedness in moderation ?

## CONCLUSION

1. "Don't be addicted to wine" is not an approval of moderate drinking!
2. "Don't be enslaved to sin" is no approval of moderate sinning!
3. "Don't be a drug addict" is no approval of the occasional use of heroin.
4. Christians are not going to be found drinking alcohol in any amount or defending it's use !
5. Alcoholic beverage ads never show the after effects.
  - a. Ads for soap detergents show how clean the clothes become after using this brand
  - b. Sellers of diet aids show the before and after.
  - c. But liquor and alcohol ads show their customers only before they use their product, never ---

- i. Making fools of themselves by their behavior
- ii. Throbbing with a hangover
- iii. Involved in bloody car accidents - with dead bodies scattered on the road
- iv. Causing family problems
- v. Floundering in the gutter.

d. Poem:

One night in October,  
When I was far from sober,  
And dragging a load with many pride;  
My legs began to stutter,  
So I laid me in the gutter,  
And a Pig came up and parked right by my side.

Then I began to warble,  
It's good weather  
When good fellows get together,  
Til a lady passing by was heard to say,  
"You can tell a man who boozes  
By the company he chooses."  
Then the pig got up and slowly walked away.

6. Prov. 20:1 "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."
7. The Bible Condemns strong drink !

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