

## 6 things the Bible says about drinking alcohol:

### 1. The Bible allows Christians to drink alcohol for medical reasons.

- a. Paul told Timothy, "Stop drinking only water and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illness." (1 Timothy 5:23)

### 2. The Bible sometimes portrays alcohol as something good and enjoyable.

- a. Jesus' first miracle involved turning water into wine for a wedding celebration. (John 2:3-11) Psalm 104 says, "He makes grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate—bringing forth food from the earth; wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread that sustains his heart." (v. 14-15)

### 3. The Bible forbids drunkenness.

- a. Although the Bible never says that alcohol itself is sinful, it does say many times that drunkenness is a sin. God says, "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." (Ephesians 5:6) In fact, there are many verses in the Bible which speak out against drunkenness. (For a few examples, see Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Peter 4:3.)

### 4. The Bible warns against drinking if it offends fellow believers.

- a. God explains in Romans 14 and 1 Corinthians 8 that we should be considerate of other Christians who have different convictions than we do. Some Christians believe that alcohol is always sinful. And their convictions should be respected. God says, "If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died. "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit...Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification... It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall." (Romans 14:15-21)

### 5. The Bible forbids drinking if it hinders the gospel.

- a. Paul explained in 1 Corinthians 9 that even though he was allowed to eat and drink anything he wanted, he was very careful not to do things that would hinder the gospel of Christ. He said, "Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. "I became all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings." (1 Corinthians 9:19-23) If I was trying to witness to someone who thought it was bad for Christians to drink, there's no way I would drink alcohol in front of that person!

### 6. The Bible warns that drinking is often dangerous and unwise.

- a. The Bible contains lots of warnings about how tempting and dangerous it is to get involved with alcohol. King Lemuel recites what his mother taught him (Proverbs 31:4-5) "It is not for kings, O Lemuel - not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer, lest they drink and forget what the law decrees, and deprive all the oppressed of their rights." And Solomon, one of the wisest men who've ever lived, said, "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." (Proverbs 23:31)

These Bible passages suggest that it is wise to abstain from alcohol since it can be a difficult thing to control. Alcohol can easily seduce you, and before you know it, it controls you. How many people have had a few drinks and then ended up in bed with a stranger? How many adults have had a few drinks and then ended up in a serious car accident? How many married couples have ended up in arguments and/or physical fights due to the influence of alcohol? These situations are all too common. God is looking out for you when He warns you about the dangers of alcohol and drunkenness. Getting drunk causes you to lose control of yourself and do things - dangerous things - that you wouldn't do if you were sober.

In light of these scriptures, it appears possible to live a godly life and enjoy a small amount of alcohol. But the person who reads these and chooses to abstain from alcohol - equally lives a godly life. Those of you who take some time to seek God's will about this matter for your life are wise.