

Total Abstinence From Alcohol Part 2

“31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: 33 Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.” (1 Corinthians 10:31-33 KJV)

Some people have misused the instruction given by Paul to Timothy, ***“23 Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.” (1 Timothy 5:23 KJV)*** Paul was not recommending wine to Timothy as a social drink. The fact that Paul had to mention the medicinal use of wine indicates rather strongly that Timothy and Paul were committed to abstinence as a lifestyle.

The use of alcohol weakens the Christian's testimony: The use of alcohol violates some basic principles laid down for all believers, whether ministers or laymen. One of these important principles is the Biblical caution not to offend a weaker brother or cause a younger Christian to fall.

Apostle Paul dealt with the responsibility of the stronger brother toward the weaker brother in ***Romans 14:21, “It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.” It takes a stronger act of the will to abstain from the consumption of alcohol than to participate in this social practice of the world. Therefore believers who take their Christian responsibility seriously cannot avoid the obvious importance of total abstinence to their Christian testimony.***

This truth is especially significant when it is applied to the young people of the world who are turning to alcohol in unprecedented numbers as an acceptable mind-altering drug. They are going beyond moderation, no matter what their parents and elders say. If Christian parents and adults use alcohol even in moderation or just to be socially accepted, the next generation will use it with less care and self-control. **The best example our generation can set for the next generation is to practice and teach total abstinence from alcohol.**

Jesus spoke very clearly to the disciples about the responsibility of the older generation to its children and youth: ***“1 Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! 2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.” (Luke 17:1-2 KJV)*** We must not set an example that will send others to hell and destruction.

As believers we must draw a line on the use of alcohol. If we draw the line at the point of moderation, we will soon find it necessary to exhort congregations to forsake drunkenness. If we draw the line at total abstinence, we will save a multitude of young and old from the sin of alcoholism.

Social drinking is Satan's cruel deception: The term social drinking suggests that the consumption of alcohol in respectable surroundings is in some way different from drinking in other environments. *** Social drinking is a dangerous matter among Christians with what can**

bring from bad effects and harmful consequences. The fact that such a problem has grown to the currently distressing proportions shows what a powerful and insidious influence the present age exerts on the church of Jesus Christ. *** The Holy Spirit can deliver from the shackles of social drinking, and we plead with all Christians who have fallen into this bondage to cry out for God's help immediately.**

Many people who experience psychological problems (and some of them unfortunately are Christians) are tempted to seek an easy solution in a little bit of alcohol. But what was used as a supposed cure has caused even greater problems. We are set free through Jesus Christ, not through a drug that dissipates and destroys us when we submit to its influence.

Many drinkers today started on the road to alcoholism with a social drink or an innocent first taste. Fatal automobile accidents are caused by drinking drivers. The economic cost of alcoholism includes lost in production, automobile accidents, health care, violent crimes, and fire losses. Alcohol is consistently linked to a high percentage of reported murders, assaults, and rapes, as well as to suicide, domestic violence, and child abuse. Social drinking was the starting point for those who are all involved with all the above.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is one of the leading causes of mental retardation as a birth defect in countries where alcohol is a social drink. Whatever alcohol the pregnant mother consumes it crosses the placenta and enters the bloodstream of the baby. The result too frequently is below-average birth weight and size, deformed and improperly formed joints and limbs, as well as heart defects. Therefore we should not be concerned only about the life of the unborn child; the health of the child is important too.

The consumption of alcohol has become a social crisis, tearing at the moral fabric of the society. Christians cannot meet their moral responsibilities by a posture of neutrality about alcohol. The problem is not merely economic, cultural, or social. **In the final analysis, the use of alcohol is a spiritual problem. Alcoholism is sin, not sickness. Alcoholism is the manifestation of the permissive, lawless spirit that produced so much spiritual degeneration in our society today. Therefore, alcoholic beverages should have no place in the life of the Christian. Let there be no doubt about the Church of God stand on this critical issue.**

The call to abstinence: We declare unequivocally our conviction that total abstinence from alcoholic beverages is the only acceptable way of life for the Christian. We call upon every member and adherent in our fellowship, including both the ministry and the laity, to teach by word and example a life-style that abstains totally from the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

“1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. 2 And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. 3 Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace. 4 And Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said unto them, Come near, carry your brethren from before the sanctuary out of the camp. 5 So they went near, and carried them in their coats out of the camp; as Moses had said. 6 And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons, Uncover not your heads, neither rend your clothes; lest ye die, and lest

wrath come upon all the people: but let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the LORD hath kindled. 7 And ye shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: for the anointing oil of the LORD is upon you. And they did according to the word of Moses. 8 And the LORD spake unto Aaron, saying, 9 Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations: 10 And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean; 11 And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.” (Leviticus 10:1-11 KJV)

In the above mentioned event, we can see a major event that had taken place after the completion of the ceremony of the dedication of Aaron and his sons to the office of the priest. Here we read, *“1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.” (Leviticus 10:1 KJV)* We found that Nadab and Abihu, had done something strange, by themselves without any instructions, neither from God nor from Moses. God reacted very drastically toward what they did and sent fire to devour them and they died before the Lord. After their death Moses instructed Aaron and his remaining sons not to mourn and not to leave their place in the tent of meeting because the oil of the anointing was on them, and he instructed the sons of the uncle of Aaron to come and bury the dead outside the camp.

After this we can read that the Lord spoke directly to Aaron of the following: *“8 And the LORD spake unto Aaron, saying, 9 Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations: 10 And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean; 11 And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.” (Leviticus 10:8-11 KJV)* God told him clearly that neither he nor any of his descendants would be allowed to drink wine when they go into the tabernacle of meeting. It was not Moses who said that to Aaron, but God Himself spoke that to him. He did not tell him small or big amount; whatever amount it is prohibited for them and for us today to drink. *There are those who say when we drink we are not affected; it means they are not aware that they had lost their control and had crossed the limit.*

Usually God speaks to Moses and tell him to tell Aaron. But now God spoke directly to Aaron. Perhaps if Moses would speak that, Aaron might object, but God Himself said that to him.

But what is the link between that and what had happened to his two sons? There was a link, because they might drunk a wine, and that wine that they drunk had affected their minds and made them do strange things that are unauthorized by God, and crossed the limit that provoked God and brought that great wrath on them. It says, *“offered strange fire before the LORD”*. The Hebrew and the Arabic Word used for ‘strange’, is ‘Zuwr’, and the meaning of it is the following: To be strange, be a strange, an enemy, loathsome, strange woman, prostitute, harlot, to be estranged, to be one alienated. So what they did was really faked, and how they would decide to do that unless they were under some strong influence that took them out of their minds, and that what they did, brought death into their lives. The Lord also linked death with entering the tabernacle if they will be drunk.

Why God would not want them to be drunk while they entered the tabernacle? *“10 And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean; 11 And*

that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.” (Leviticus 10:10-11 KJV) If they are drunk and under the influence of wine, they will not be able to differentiate the unclean from the clean; wine will remove the limits and give the courage to cross borders, take wrong decisions and do trespasses as what had happened. *Those who are drunk they will not be ashamed and they will speak and do shameful and embarrassing things.* God also said, *“11 And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.” (Leviticus 10:11 KJV)* *How they can teach others and be good example for others and teach others the laws and the decrees of God if their mind is confused, daze and stupor under the influence of wine?*

The main reason that Christians and followers of Christ should not drink wine is because the wine affect he mind, and the level of conscience, lead to loss of balance, lead to strange thoughts, wrong imaginations, remove shame and fear and encourage the person to cross borders and take wrong decisions that will be fatal for him and for others who will follow him.

In any part of the world if any driver is caught and he is drunk he will be refereed for justice considering drinking is an offence, because it can cause accident, since the person have disorientation, his level of awareness is reduced and has courage to take even wrong decisions while he is driving; increase speed, change the direction suddenly, or stop suddenly, and these all are dangerous and offense to the driver himself, to the passengers with him and to the other vehicles in the street and to the pedestrians.

“4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: 5 Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.” (Proverbs 31:4-5 KJV) * Here clearly stated why kings and those in authority should not drink, because drink will make them forget the law of God, and then to pervert judgment and hinder them from taking the right decision or giving the right advice. * Alcohol according to the Word of God should be given to those who are perishing, therefore since we receive Christ and we alive through His blood we should not drink wine that is given to those who are perishing. *“6 Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish.” (Proverbs 31:6 KJV)* You should not drink wine unless you don’t want your salvation, the think that I am sure that you will not forfeit just for the sake of drink.

Apostle Paul said to the Ephesians about wine, *“18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:18 KJV)* The Greek Word for ‘excess’, is ‘Asotia’, and it means, ‘an abandoned’, ‘dissolute life’, ‘profligacy’, or ‘prodigality’; *so those who drink their lives and attitude will be like the prodigal son, not only in wasting resources, and their money on drinks, living wild life, but as well as the wrong decisions that they are taking. Those who drink they abandoned their lives.*

So those who drank their minds will be confused, having wrong thoughts, and wrong inclination, and they will even not be able to understand the vision of God to them and what He wants them to do, as we can read here: *“7 But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.” (Isaiah 28:7 KJV)* Because of the wine, the Israelites were out of the way. Their priests and their prophets were in error because of drinking, they got error in the

vision and they stumbled in taking right decision and in giving judgment in the things that are pertain to God. All this took place because of wine.

Now many churches adopt drinking, and their pastors and members drink, and they have various kinds of justification, but can they avoid themselves taking wrong decisions because of wine? Absolutely not. **They would say Jesus was drinking, they would say that Jesus change the water into wine, they would say that Paul advised Timothy to take some wine for his stomach and his sickness, but that all cannot justify their drinking wine because they cannot avoid committing error because of wine, therefore they ought to absolutely abstain from it.**

When God said to Aaron, ***“9 Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations.” (Leviticus 10:9 KJV)*** Some they would say that we can drink at home and when we come to church or to the place of prayer we can abstain from it. But they forgot that we are a royal priesthood. Since Jesus died on the cross for our sins we received and got marked with the Holy Spirit, so everywhere we are in God’s presence and we are His temple, ***“9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” (1 Peter 2:9 KJV)*** **God wants us to be alert and without wine so we can grasp what God is saying to us, what His vision is telling to us, what are the wrong things that we need to avoid and what are the right judgments that God wants us to take and what to teach others to do according to His laws and His commands.**

John the Baptist was a priest of God and who prepared the way for Jesus. The angel of God informed his father, ***“15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.” (Luke 1:15 KJV)*** Here God said clearly, his abstinence from alcohol is linked with the filling of the Holy Spirit. **Even today for ourselves if we desire to live for God and be in eternity with Him, we need to desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit so we can serve Him, and therefore for this we need to abstain from any alcohol in order to be filled with the Holy Spirit.**

My Dear and Beloved: “20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.” (Proverbs 19:20 KJV) Some they would say, we can drink little because we can control. This is wrong, but even if that correct, how about those who do not control and the small amount of wine for them would lead them to lose their control? So what we will teach? Will we allow some and refuse it to others and causing them to fall into troubles? Remember, that good number of those who are drown by water, they are good swimmers. Therefore the best policy for us as a church is the stand of total abstains from alcohol. Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and was buried and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that enlightens me about the real danger of alcohol in my life and what are the dangers that may put me in. Lord thank you for all the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we received in this message.

Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your worldliness, and your love for material things. Confess and renounce your drinking alcohol and your addiction on that. Confess and renounce your stubbornness and your delay obedience. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers and in bondage with many friends, the Media, News and games. Confess and renounce your bad example and your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins

Lord I commit myself to totally abstain from alcohol and I commit myself to teach others my family and the people around me to do the same. Lord give me perseverance and self-control to do that. Lord fill me once again with the Holy Spirit and gives me the Spiritual gifts that I need to go and serve you. Lord give me boldness and courage that comes from you to go and proclaim this Word of yours to others who are in need of it. I commit myself to instruct and to teach those who drink to stop drinking. Lord I pray that you direct me to go and evangelize and reach out the loss with the Gospel of Jesus.

I come against the spirit of alcoholism and drinking in the name of Jesus and cast out all the work of demons in the lives of those who are drinking. Lord we proclaim deliverance upon deliverance upon the lives of people who are willing to come out from the sin of drinking alcohol.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed themselves to the principles of this Word of yours, Lord protect them and provide for them and make their lives good example to others to follow you and use them to evangelize and to spread your Word to those who are lost.

Lord I pray for ourselves as a Church of God that you will fill us once again with the Holy Spirit to go and spread your Word to the people around us and to those whom you are sending us to. Lord bless your church, and enable us Lord to reach new people, new families, new villages, and new areas with the gospel, impacting new cities, countries and nations with the gospel of Jesus. Lord enable us to preach boldly your Word and to do the very thing that you want us to do.

Lord enable us to plant new Bible studies and more congregations in various places. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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