



X-Rated For Christians – Alcohol

Planted Christians Study #24

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.”

II Corinthians 6:17

Lesson Overview

- I. The Proof Of X Rated By A Divine Command
- II. The Proof Of X Rated Through A Destructive End
 - A. The Destructive End of Poverty
 - B. The Destructive End of Shame
 - C. The Destructive End of Perverted Judgment
 - D. The Destructive End of Problems Magnified

One of the criticism from unsaved people or immature Christians about the Christian life is often, “There are too many don’ts in the Bible.”

They often say I just don’t like all of the “Thou shalt not’s” of the Bible.

Some even believe that these “shalt not’s” are in place to steal from certain joys from Christians. This is ridiculous!

Actually the “Negatives of the Bible” are God’s positive involvement with man.

In Genesis 1&2 God created a sinless creation that included a perfect man & woman.

The freedom they possessed was limitless and only ONE “Thou Shalt Not.”

Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Did you get that, only one “thou shalt not” and that was placed in the garden because God wanted man to have a free will.

God wanted man to love and obey God because man chose to and by obeying His one “thou shalt not” man could demonstrate His love and obedience to God by exercising His own free will.

We know what happened, man sinned and the consequences God promised followed.

Ever since that first sin, all man have been and will be sinners.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

This sin nature is a self-destructive nature sin if left unchecked will always destroy us!

Once Again the Apostle Paul speaks of sin in Romans 3:23.

Romans 7:11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

Proverbs 11:3 The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.

It is because of our sin nature and the destruction that sin brings that God in His love has constituted the list of “Thou Shalt Not’s.”

These Thou Shalt Not’s or the X-rated things for Christians are actually God’s positive involvement with man.

It is this involvement that keeps us from pain, brokenness, emptiness, and despondency that comes when we are overtaken by sin.

Don’t you see it? What God says is off limits to a Christian is not a negative it is a positive given by a loving God trying to protect His children.

You see there are two different views to the “Thou Shalt Not’s” of the Bible or what God says is X-rated.

They are viewed as either to restrain us from joy and fun, or they are placed there by a loving God to keep us from self-destructing in sin!

What is your outlook on X-rated things of the Bible? Our outlook will determine our attitude, and our attitude will determine our obedience or lack thereof.

While there are many X-Rated things for the Christian, we will examine just one in the first part of this lesson, Alcohol.

I. Alcohol Is X-Rated

Drinking is a monumental problem in our society.

- Since 2000 over 150,000 people have died in alcohol related fatalities in America
- Tens of thousands of people are physically and sexually abused every year by others who are being controlled by alcohol
- Thousands die each year due to cancer that formed because of alcohol
- Thousands of families are destroyed every year by the effects of alcohol

With all of these indisputable facts drinking alcohol is completely socially acceptable. Alcohol is paraded and promoted on TV, radio, and through sporting events.

While anti-smoking campaigns are growing pro-drinking campaigns are also flourishing.

Alcohol is not a “social” issue. Drinking alcohol is a “Biblical” issue.

I unapologetically am here to say that drinking alcohol is X-Rated for Christians and God’s Word proves it!

God is not for alcohol in excess or moderation!

God is not for beer, wine, whiskey, mixed drinks, or any other alcoholic beverage!

Let’s examine the proofs that make alcohol X-Rated for Christians.

The first proof is a Divine Command.

I. The Proof Of A Divine Command

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Proverbs 23:31-32 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

This verse is describing the fermentation process. God is clearly teaching that “wine” is not to be consumed once it is fermented.

Notice that this command is not to drink wine but not to drink wine when it is fermented. This is because the word “wine” in the Bible refers to a beverage made from fruit that grows on the vine. This beverage may or may not be alcoholic.

When this clear distinction is not made and is not clearly understood, one may wrongly believe that the Bible actually allows or even promotes the drinking of alcohol. For instance consider the following verse.

John 4:46 “So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine...”

Did Christ actually make an alcoholic beverage and then have it served to wedding guest? If the answer is yes, it must not be a sin to drink alcohol. However, this is NOT what Christ did.

As you can see, we MUST study and understand the words for “wine” in the Bible or we will be confused about this topic.

The Bible was written almost entirely in two languages. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament was written in Koine Greek.

Both the Hebrew Old Testament and the Greek New Testament each have two different words for “wine.” In each of the Testaments, one word is used for “fermented wine” and one is used for unfermented wine or “juice of the vine”

Again, this is crucial to understand because the English Bible uses the single word “wine” in all places.

The English Bible does not differentiate the word into words like fruit juice, wine, wine cooler, or mixed drinks.

Here is the simple point. When reading your Bible, the word “wine” may mean either fermented or unfermented.

To know which is being used a simple word study is needed.

Two Old Testament words for wine are “Yah-yin” (#3196 in the Hebrew Lexicon) and “Tee-roshe” (#8492 in the Hebrew Lexicon.)

“Yah-yin” means to effervesce, to ferment, or to change in form. This word is used in Genesis 9:21.

Genesis 9:21 And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.

“Tee-roshe” means to expel juice, or to squeeze a fruit. This word is used in Genesis 27:28.

Genesis 27:28 Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine:

These are two completely different Hebrew words that are different in meaning yet are both translated “wine.”

Two New Testament words that are translated for wine are “Oy-nos” (#3631 in the Greek Lexicon) and “Glyoo-kos” (#1098 in the Greek Lexicon.)

“Oy-nos” means fruit of the vine and almost always refers to juice. This word is used in John 4:46.

John 4:46 So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.

“Glyoo-kos” means inebriating or fermented. This word is used in Acts 2:13.

Acts 2:13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

These are two completely different Greek words that are different in meaning yet are both translated “wine.”

This not a confusing principle to one who is willing to study the Word of God!

God’s inspired, divine word forbids the drinking of fermented beverages!

The second proof that alcohol is X-Rated for Christians is the proof of a destructive end.

II. The Proof Of A Destructive End

1. The Destructive End of Poverty

Proverbs 23:20-21 Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

2. The Destructive End of Shame

Genesis 9:20-23 And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness.

Genesis 19:30-36 And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters. And the firstborn said unto the younger, Our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth: Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father. And they made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose. And it came to pass on the morrow, that the firstborn said unto the younger, Behold, I lay yesternight with my father: let us make him drink wine this night also; and go thou in, and lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father. And they made their father drink wine that night also: and the younger arose, and lay with him; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose. Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father.

3. The Destructive End of Perverted Judgment

Proverbs 31:4-5 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.

4. The Destructive End of Problems Magnified

Proverbs 23:29-30 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

Christians have no business with Alcohol it is X-Rated.

Nor do they have any business selling or serving it!

Habakkuk 2:15 Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!

Allow God to protect us! Allow Him to keep us from our own destruction! Stay away from alcohol. God has rated it X.