

Drunkenness

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One of the most popular activities among young adults is getting drunk. If you visit a college campus on Friday or Saturday night, you will find an assortment of drunks. The weekend is party time, a time of drunkenness, illicit sex, drug use, excessive, unbridled lust, lasciviousness, carousing and riotous living. Drinking parties are viewed by many young adults with favor and delight. A typical example of Monday morning conversation among American young people is as follows: “I got so drunk Friday night I blacked out. You should have seen me Saturday night, I couldn’t even walk. I put down a six-pack and three shots in a half an hour. I puked my guts out, but it was great.”

There is no question that getting drunk has risen in popularity on college campuses. Most people frown upon drug use because it is illegal and relatively new to our culture. Getting drunk on the other hand is more acceptable. Many consider getting drunk, premarital sex and such to be a normal part of growing up. Many young people smoke, get drunk and have illicit sex because they equate such activities with adulthood. Others think getting drunk is cool (e.g., sex, drugs and rock-and-roll). The crucial thing that people have been ignoring is God’s attitude toward drunkards and drunkenness. God has a lot to say about this issue in His word—the Bible. “God’s holy will is infallibly and unchangeably revealed in the Bible. Consequently, the Bible—and the Bible *alone*—must be the starting point and supreme standard for defining truly Christian ethical behavior” (Kenneth L. Gentry).

Drunkenness Is a False Escape

Many people get drunk in order to escape reality. Some people get drunk for fun, while others want to forget their problems. People who get drunk have rejected God’s created human consciousness in favor of a chemically altered consciousness. God created man straight and sober. It is foolish and sinful to damage our minds. It is an insult to God to destroy our bodies. God does not want us to run from our problems. Getting drunk does not solve problems. Jesus said that getting drunk deepens depression, it does not eliminate it. “Be on guard, that your hearts may not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of live...” (Luke 21:34).

Drunkenness Destroys the Family

Drinking to excess is destructive of the family and society. That is because drunkenness leads to name calling, fighting and poverty. “Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and

whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise” (Pr. 20:1). How many husbands and wives act civil until they are drunk? Drunkenness causes arguments and a contentious spirit. “Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions?...Those who linger long over wine...” (Pr. 23:29-30). How many men get drunk and beat their wives and children? How many women get drunk and abuse and neglect their children? How many families are poor because a parent is a drunkard and irresponsible? “Do not be with heavy drinkers of wine, or with gluttonous eaters of meat. For the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe a man with rags” (Pr. 23:20-21).

Drunkenness Leads to Debauchery

Drunkenness can lead to sexual immorality, anger, fighting and even murder. Men have used alcohol for millennia to get women drunk in order to have their way with them sexually. Drinking to excess breaks down one’s inhibitions. It clouds the conscience and suppresses guilt. Lot’s daughters got their own father drunk so he would act wickedly and commit incest. “Come, let us make our father drink wine, and let us lie [i.e., have sexual intercourse] with him...” Gen. 19:32). Getting drunk and getting naked have a long history. Around twenty centuries ago Jeremiah spoke against Edom and said “...you will become drunk and make yourself naked” (Lam. 4:21). In the Roman Empire nearly two thousand years ago drunken parties and sexual immorality were very popular. “...the Gentiles having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries” (1 Pet. 4:3). Party goes in Isaiah’s day even had musical groups for entertainment. Martinis and big band jazz, and beer, pot and rock-and-roll are all variations on the same theme. “Woe to those who rise early in the morning that they may pursue strong drink; or stay up late in the evening that wine may inflame them! And their banquets are accompanied by the lyre and harp, by tambourine and flute, and by wine; but they do not pay attention to the deeds of the Lord nor do they consider the work of His hands” (Isa. 5:11-12). The apostle Paul says that getting drunk, sexual promiscuity and strife are “deeds of darkness” (Rom. 13:12). “Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy” (Rom. 13:13). The testimony of God’s word is clear. God hates drunkenness, drinking parties and the sexual immorality and idolatry that accompany them. “And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, ‘The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.’ Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and on one day twenty-three thousand fell [in god’s judgment]” (1 Cor. 10:7-8).

Drunkenness Is a Sin Not a Disease

Modern psychology has proclaimed “alcoholism” to be a sickness or disease. The Bible says that getting drunk is a sin. “Let us behave properly as in the day, *not* in carousing and drunkenness...” (Rom. 13:13). Getting drunk is strictly forbidden by the Scriptures. “Do not get

drunk with wine, in which is dissipation” (Eph. 5:18). The apostle Paul says that getting drunk is an evil sin of the flesh. “Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are immorality, impurity...drunkenness...” (Gal. 5:19, 21). God proclaims divine judgment upon “alcoholics” or drunkards in Isaiah. “Woe to those who are heroes in drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink” (Is. 5:22). If getting drunk was a disease for which man could not help himself then God would not condemn drunkenness.

The modern idea that drunkards are not responsible for their behavior is wrong, sinful, dangerous and cruel. It is wrong because it contradicts the clear teaching of Scripture. It is sinful because it is an excuse for evil sinful behavior. It is dangerous because it destroys the concept of personal responsibility. It is cruel because it takes away the hope that Jesus Christ offers to drunkards. If getting drunk or being a drunkard is something that people cannot help because it is a disease like catching the flu, then Christ’s death on the cross and granting of repentance are of no consequence to the drunkard.

It may be the case that you come from a terrible family situation. Perhaps your parents were alcoholics. Perhaps they abused you. Perhaps you were even abandoned by your parents. No matter how bad your upbringing was, God will still hold you accountable for your actions. God, on the day of judgment, will accept no excuses for sinful behavior. You must admit your sins before God. You need to confess to God that your behavior is sinful and wrong, and then trust in Jesus Christ for your salvation. “He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy” (Pr. 28:13).

Drunkards Will Go To Hell

God explicitly says that drunkards will *not* go to heaven. “Neither thieves, nor covetous, *nor drunkards* shall inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Cor. 6:10). If you think you are a Christian and are involved in the party scene, you are mistaken. If you believe that you can get drunk any time you wish and that God will look the other way, you are living in gross deception. God hates getting drunk so much that He says that Christians should not associate with drunkards (cf. Pr. 23:30). The apostle Paul commanded Christians “...not to associate with any *so-called* brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a *drunkard*, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one” (1 Cor. 5:11). Drunkenness is a wicked sin of the flesh which bars entrance into God’s kingdom. “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness...envy...*drunkenness*, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal. 5:19, 21).

Conclusion

Now that you have an understanding of what God thinks of drunkenness, never again can you “party on” without having a clear knowledge of the guilt and damnation you are incurring

for the coming day of judgment when Jesus Christ will cast unrepentant fornicators (e.g., those who engage in pre-marital sex, adultery, pornography, homosexuality, etc.) drug abusers, and people who get drunk, into hell. “The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and the glory of His power” (2 Th. 1:7-9).

God provided a way to escape the penalty and guilt that rests upon those enslaved to sin. Your only hope of obtaining forgiveness of sins and eternal life is to believe in Jesus Christ. “The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has everlasting life, and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (Jn. 3:35-36).

Why did Jesus Christ have to die a bloody death on the cross to forgive sin? Couldn't God the Father simply ignore or overlook our transgressions? Couldn't God just let our wicked behavior slide? Absolutely not! Why? Because God is infinitely holy and God has promised to punish sin with death (spiritual, physical and eternal).

Almost anyone acknowledges that God is loving and merciful but very few people understand the importance of God's holiness. God is ethically perfect. He is the very basis, and the only foundation for absolute, unchanging moral law. God's moral character is reflected and summarized in the Ten Commandments. God's holiness expressed to mankind is perfect justice or righteousness. God's holiness is the reason He hates sin with an infinite hatred. God's holiness is emphasized in the Bible more than any other divine attribute including love. Because God is infinitely holy He cannot dwell with sinners. “You [O Lord] are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and *cannot* look on iniquity” (Hab. 1:13). Thus God cannot just sweep sin under the rug and forget it. God's majestic holiness demands that all sin be punished.

Because sin is such an insult against God's majestic holiness it should be no surprise that sin merits spiritual and eternal death away from God's glorious presence. God has warned us repeatedly about the consequences of sin and rebellion against Him. “The soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezek. 18:4). “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23). Thus we have two serious needs that we ourselves can never eliminate. First, the guilt of sin merits eternal death. We cannot pay this penalty without dying and going to hell ourselves. Thus, a perfect substitute is needed if we are to escape our just desserts. Secondly, we need a *perfect* righteousness toward God before we can be restored to fellowship and friendship with Him and dwell in His presence. But how can we who are sinful and unrighteous obtain perfect righteousness? Can we reach the righteousness we need before God by doing good works and giving to charity? No, because our “good deeds” do not erase or eliminate our past evil acts. And even our best acts are intermingled with sins, impure thoughts and such. How much dung would you find acceptable in your pot of stew? Now perhaps you understand my point?

There is only one way to eliminate the guilt and penalty we deserve for our sins. And there is only one way that we can obtain the perfect holiness or righteousness required to dwell

in God's presence. The only way is to have faith in Jesus Christ. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom 5:10). When we place our trust in Jesus Christ and believe that He died a sacrificial death for us, His blood removes the guilt and penalty for our sins. "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him" (Rom. 5:8-9). Also, when a person believes in Jesus Christ (as He is revealed in the Scriptures) Christ's sinless, perfect life is imputed to the believer. Therefore, when God looks upon the believing sinner He sees the righteousness of Christ. Jesus has merited eternal life for the believer. Once a person is justified before God he then is adopted into God's own family. If you have placed your trust in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation then contact one of the churches mentioned on this Web site and join a solid Bible-believing church in your area.

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