

Sippin'



Saints



Many are the excuses of many well meaning (?) Christians who, while on the one hand abhor drunkenness, have rationalized it as okay to partake of alcoholic beverages as long as, again, it isn't "excessive". Of course, there are endless possibilities of opinion as to what "excessive" is. Thank God that His Word, in its absolute authority, removes the need for any such defining. "Well,' you might ask, what's so wrong with a little sip every now and then?

Enter God's Word....



Don't Worry, this will be quick!

* **FIRST**, notice **Proverbs 23:29-35**, with the focus on **verse 31**, "Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright."

* This verse clearly teaches to not even "look", or pay any attention to or consider (e.g. sip), any fermented beverage, much less to "tarry long". The terms "red", "giveth his colour", and "moveth itself alright" are all connotative of alcoholic, fermented content. **One can't even get a SIP out of this, and look God in the eyes!**

Then, careful consideration of the remaining verses is an exact picture of the effects of intoxication as well, from troubles [v.29,32], and immorality [33], to senseless, self-destruction [35]. With such at hand and the command of

I Thessalonians 5:22 to "Abstain from all appearance of evil ", why would a Christian want to be connected with such a lifestyle or even contribute to the same in other's lives every time they support the industry with their purchase?

* **SECOND**, we may procede to **Proverbs 31:4-7**, with particular focus on verses four and six. [v.4] "It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:"

* **Fermented** beverages are not the drink of those with nobility in their blood and high standards.

By the way, we, as Christians, ARE children of the KING, heirs of the KINGDOM. So, those Christians who have a problem with this area, certainly don't realize the poor company they put themselves in. [v.6] "Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts."

* **Fermented** beverages are for those with no life worth living. That plainly is not God's plan for His children. We ARE better than that, and it is obvious that the remaining verses do not put alcoholic beverages in a positive light.

Many love to refer to John, chapter two, where Jesus turned the water into wine. A study of the Greek words used for the wine Jesus made, connotates nothing more than grape juice. Also, simply knowing the verses just examined in Proverbs is all any submissive child of God needs to know. **If Jesus had made fermented wine for all to drink, He would have been in sin against His Father's own Word. (Oops, there goes our salvation!)** Jesus would have as well come into question for His motives under the command of **Habakkuk 2:15**, which pronounces woe to the one who gives his neighbor strong drink with intentions of bringing them to shame. Well, we could also mention God's displeasure with those who hurt their bodies in **I Corinthians 3:17**. **So, partaking of fermented, alcoholic beverages, based on the absolute, unchanging authority of God's Word, is sin no matter what the excuse!**

Every child of God must remember who they are and WHO owns them, as in **I Corinthians 6:20**, "...for ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

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