The Evil Effects Of Alcohol

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Introduction

Many parents would be shocked to learn that their kids use drugs, yet, they themselves often abuse another kind of drug – alcohol. Substance abuse is a serious problem; yet, alcohol is the most widely abused of all drugs.

Alcohol promises more than it can deliver. Many pursue wine and strong drink, seeking happiness, but such pleasures are deceitful and fleeting. Men often become enslaved and addicted, damaging and destroying their potential, wantonly wasting their lives. It is impossible to comprehend the suffering and sorrow that the use and abuse of alcohol has brought to humanity (Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-35).

On The Nation

Alcohol has an evil effect upon the nation. Only cancer and heart disease claim more victims than alcoholism. Countless crimes are committed by those who are under the influence of alcohol. Even those who otherwise demonstrate no criminal tendencies endanger life and property when driving while intoxicated. Wine and strong drink also have a detrimental effect upon those in position of leadership (Proverbs 31:1-5). Hear the affirmation of God’s Word: “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people” (Proverbs 14:34). Wickedness results in divine judgment, while faithfulness brings blessings from above (Psalm 107:33-38; Nahum 1:9-10).

On The Body

Alcohol has an evil effect upon the body. A chronic, progressive and potentially fatal disease, alcoholism results in psychological and physical dependency, often damaging the body in irreversible ways. Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary defines alcoholism as “(1) continued excessive or compulsive use of alcoholic drinks; (2) poisoning by alcohol; especially: a complex chronic psychological and nutritional disorder associated with excessive and usually compulsive drinking.” Those who so abuse themselves forget that their body is the temple of God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Peter 2:4-5).

On average, one out of every ten persons who drinks will become an alcoholic. The physical and psychological makeup of certain individuals is such that if they drink at all, they will be virtual alcoholics from the first drink! Why gamble with your life, health, happiness, and eternal destiny? The liquid equivalent of “Russian roulette” is not an acceptable pastime for the Christian. Addiction is the opposite of self-control (1 Corinthians 6:12-13; 9:24-27).
On The Soul

Alcohol has an evil effect upon the soul. Will the consumption of alcoholic beverages help in deciding right from wrong? Will it create greater spirituality? Does it increase one’s devotion? Accumulated evidence from the patriarchs to the present shows that drinking weakens inhibitions against sin (Genesis 9:20-25; 19:32-35), destroys good judgment (Leviticus 10:9-11; Isaiah 28:1-6), and draws the heart away from God (Isaiah 5:11-12; Hosea 4:11-12).

On The Home

Alcohol has an evil effect upon the home. It robs children of parents and parents of children; it alienates husbands and wives; it destroys domestic harmony and happiness. Children of God have a spiritual duty to their families (Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21). Unless the Lord builds the house, our labors are in vain (Psalm 127:1-5). Drunkenness hinders all such efforts (Proverbs 23:17-21).

On Others

Alcohol has an evil effect upon others. It damages our influence for good (Proverbs 4:18-19; Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:4-7). Many would agree that drunkenness is wrong, but how do you rebuke a drunkard with a beer in your hand? If your neighbor knows that you, a member of the Lord’s church, engage in social drinking, will this enhance your spiritual qualities in his sight? What kind of example do such worldly members set for those who are young, those who are weak, and those who are without? Let us avoid the very appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22).

Conclusion

Social drinking and drunkenness are totally inconsistent with the high calling of Christ Jesus (Romans 13:13-14; Ephesians 5:18-19). Those who obey the gospel must lay aside such sins (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Peter 4:1-7).