

“The Bible on Beer”

Ephesians 5:18a

Dr. Cliff McManis

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*“And do not get drunk with wine,
for that is dissipation”*

Definitions

1. *Drunkenness* is when alcohol in the blood begins to inhibit, restrict, modify or interrupt the normal functions of the mind and body—and it has varying degrees. Drunkenness clouds and distorts one’s thinking ability.
2. *Dissipation* means “debauchery, profligacy, unrestrained, wasteful, excess, dissolute”—it has the idea of a disorderly life resulting from the lack of **self-control**.
3. *Yayin*: the most common OT word for wine (used 138x)
 - a) 83 times it refers to **fermented** drink and the remaining times “it may fairly be presumed to do so” [*Unger’s Bible Dictionary*, p. 1366].
 - b) Used with good (Genesis 14:18) and bad (Genesis 9:21) connotations.
 - c) “Wine” is never used in the OT to refer to **grape juice** (Fitzsimmonds, *The New Bible Dictionary*, p. 1331; Spurgeon’s College, London).

4. *Oinos*: the most common NT word for wine; used with good (John 2:7,ff) and bad (Ephesians 5:18) connotations; it refers to fermented fruit of the vine.

Biblical Principles

5. The Bible talks a great deal about wine.
6. Wine is not **evil**—the abuse/misuse of wine is evil.
7. Christians need to exercise great **caution** with wine.
8. Drunkenness is a **sin** (Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).
9. The Bible commands believers not to associate with **drinkers**
 - a) whether unbelievers (Proverbs 23:19-20).
 - b) or professing believers (1 Corinthians 5:11).
10. Drinking does not produce true **joy** or **peace** (Galatians 5:22).
11. Elders, pastors, deacons and leading women in the church are not to be **addicted** to wine” (1 Timothy 3:3, 8; Titus 1:7; 2:3).

Practical Application

12. Don't use alcohol to **manipulate** other people or to induce them to do something in your favor (Genesis 19:32).
13. Drink wine with **moderation**...if at all (1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23).
14. There were definite times for believers to abstain from wine (alcohol):
 - a) Aaron & the priests in spiritual service (Leviticus 10:9).
 - b) During a Nazirite vow (Numbers 6:2-3).
 - c) When it violates the law of the land (Romans 13:1-5).
 - d) If you are addicted to wine (1 Corinthians 6:12).
 - e) If you are a ruler/leader (Proverbs 31:4).
 - f) John the Baptist (Luke 1:15).
 - g) When it violates your conscience (Romans 14:23).
 - * h) In front of a **weaker** brother (Romans 14:21).
15. There were times to drink wine in the Bible:
 - a) When the Nazirite vow was over (Numbers 6:20).
 - b) For the **dying** (Proverbs 31:6).
 - c) For medicinal purposes (1 Timothy 5:23).
 - d) Alone with your **spouse** (Song of Solomon 5:1; 7:9; 8:2).
 - e) With meals.
16. Christians have **liberty** in Christ, but are not to misuse their liberties (Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 2:16).
17. "Whether then you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).