

THE CHRISTIAN AND ALCOHOL
The Complexity of the Issue: Part 2

INTRODUCTION: J. Lawrence Burkholder notes, “One's attitudes toward alcohol are seldom objective, even if one tries to be tolerant. One can be sure that a refined, cultured gentleman from Burgundy, France is not likely to be an abstainer. And a wife of an alcoholic is not likely to be convinced that any policy of moderation is wise.” Once again, the question “Is it wrong for a Christian to have a drink of alcohol?” is complicated because of what the New Testament says about wine.

I. THE NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGES REGARDING

THE ISSUE: Why is it difficult to answer the question, “*Is it wrong for a Christian to have a drink of alcohol?*”

A. Because of Jesus’ Use of Wine

oinos: οἶνος = wine.

sikera: σίκερα = strong drink; intoxicating drink.

oxos: ὄξος = sour wine; vinegar.

gleukos: γλεῦκος = sweet wine.

1. **Jesus turns water into wine**, John 2:1-10
 - a. **The Miracle**, John 2:1-10
 - b. **The Message**, John 2:11
2. **Jesus and the Last Supper**, Matt 26:29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:18; John 15:4
3. **Jesus was offered wine on the cross**, Matt 27:34, 48; Mark 15:23, 36; Luke 23:36; John 19:30

B. Because of Paul’s Instructions Concerning Wine

1. **To Timothy**, 1 Tim 5:23

a. **Wine for medicinal purposes**

(1) **It was used to settle the stomach**, 1 Tim 5:23

(2) **It was used to disinfect**, Luke 10:34

(3) **It was a cure for depression**, Pro 31:6

(4) **It was used as a sedative**, Pro 31:7

b. **Wine to purify water**

C. Paul’s Command to the Ephesians, Eph 5:18

II. CONCLUDING CONSIDERATIONS

A. The Bible Warns Against Drunkenness

B. The Bible Warns of the Ruinous Effects of Fermented Beverages

1. **Personal ruin**, Pro 23:29-30

2. **Societal and familial ruin**, Isa 5:11-13; cf Gen 9:20-27; 19:30-38

3. **Spiritual ruin**, Hosea 4:11; 1 Cor 6:10; cf 1 Pet 4:1-5

C. The Bible Calls Believers to a Separated Life