



What About Social Drinking? (II)



I. Importance of Context

II. Objections

**III. Summary Of OT
Warnings Against Alcohol**

Prov.23

**29: Who has woe? Who has sorrow?
Who has contentions? Who has complaints?
Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?**

- **Noah**, Gn.9:21, righteous
- **Nabal**, 1 Sm.25:26, rich
- **Belshazzar**, Dn.5:1-4, ruler

Prov.23

**30: Those who linger long at the wine,
Those who go in search of mixed wine.**

- **Linger long – remain behind.** Is.5:11.
- If undistilled drinks caused such damage, think of harmful effects of modern distilled liquors.

**Social drinking more easily
becomes alcoholism.**

Prov.23

**31: Do not look on the wine when it is red,
When it sparkles in the cup, When it
swirls around smoothly;**

– Do not look.

- **Points to total abstinence**
- **Gn.19:17. Eve.**

– Goes down smoothly.

Prov.23

32: At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper.

- Liquor always bites
- “At the last...”

Prov.23

**33: Your eyes will see strange things, And
your heart will utter perverse things .**

– Hallucinations and drunk-speak

Prov.23

34: Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying:

- The comparison, either:**
 - Staggering gait of the drunk
 - Nausea he feels (as seasickness)
- Lie on mast: danger of falling**
- Exposed to many dangers (23:20-21)**

Prov.23

35: “They have struck me, but I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?”

**– Addict: instead of learning lesson,
looks forward to more**

Isa.28:1, Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim . . . To those who are overcome with wine!

Isa.28:7, But they also have erred through wine, And through intoxicating drink are out of the way; The priest and the prophet have erred through intoxicating drink, They are swallowed up by wine, They are out of the way through intoxicating drink; They err in vision, they stumble in judgment.

Isa.56:12, "Come," one says, "I will bring wine, And we will fill ourselves with intoxicating drink; Tomorrow will be as today, And much more abundant."

Ho.4:11, Harlotry, wine, & new wine enslave the heart.

Lk.21:34, But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down w. carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

A contrast

Prov.20:1, Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise. [A tragedy]

Prov.3:10, So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine. [A blessing]

“Wine in the beginning stage of fermentation, barely distinguishable w. grape juice in ability to make someone drunk” –Swanson

Strong drink

Usually contains items other than grapes (fruit juices).

Before Arabs invented distillation, no drink was stronger than about 7-10%, but it was intoxicating.

Now they begin at this level



Personification: *mock*er, *br*awler...

“The passage is not limited to getting drunk. It concerns any use of wine because of its final effects” (Prov.20:1) – Harris

Parallelism: Prov.31:4-5

- 4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel,
It is not for kings to drink wine,
Nor for princes intoxicating drink;
- 5 Lest they drink and forget the law,
And pervert the justice of all the
afflicted.

Parallelism: Prov.31:6-7

6 Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to those who are bitter of heart.

7 Let him drink and forget his poverty,
And remember his misery no more.



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III. Summary of OT Warnings Against Alcohol

**IV. Summary Of NT
Warnings Against Alcohol**

1 Peter 4:3

Your past: wasted enough time in sin, 1-3

Three drinking terms

Drunkenness (overflow + wine)

Revelries (carousing)

“in Grk. writ. prop. a nocturnal and riotous procession of half-drunken & frolicsome fellows who after supper parade through the streets w. torches & music in honor of Bacchus or some other deity” – Th.

1 Peter 4:3

Your past: wasted enough time in sin, 1-3

Three drinking terms

Drunkenness (overflow + wine)

Revelries (carousing)

Drinking parties

Drinking parties (1 Pt.4:3)

“Social gathering at which wine was served, *drinking party*” – BDAG

“The drinking bout, the banquet, the symposium, not of necessity excessive...but giving opportunity for excess” – Trench, 211

LXX: Gn.19:3; 40:20; Jg.14:10, 12, drinking party, feast – LEH

► Esther 1:8

1 Peter 4:7

**But the end of all things is at hand;
therefore be serious and watchful
in your prayers.**

- **“To drink no wine” – LSJ**
- **Abstain from wine – Kubo**

1 Peter 4:7

**But the end of all things is at hand;
therefore be serious and watchful
in your prayers.**

- “The concept which underlies the verb ... = ‘to be sober’ and the whole word group, is formally negative. It is the opp. of “intoxication both 1. in the lit. sense of intoxication with wine, and 2. in the fig. sense of states of spiritual intoxication attributable to other causes –TDNT

If we are not literally sober, we cannot be spiritually sober

1. Priests had to be sober, Lv.10:9. 1 Pt.2:9
2. Nazarites also, Nu.6:1-4. Ro.6:1-4
3. Kings also, Pr.31:4. 1 Pt.2:9

Paul would forfeit innocent things to save others – 1 Co.9:19-23

- How much more . . . Alcohol
 1. Attacks mind and body, Pr.23; 1 Pt.4:7
 2. Clouds judgment, Lv.10
 3. Destroys family, Est.1:10; 2:1
 4. Compromises character, Gn.9
 5. Opens mouth, Jg.9