

Know and Do—Going Deeper, week 14: “Alcohol and the Christian” (know portion)

I. Scriptural _____ of alcohol

1. Some Old Testament passages speak of wine and beer as symbols of

_____ and _____.

- “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.” — **Proverbs 3:10**
- “Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight.” — **Proverbs 9:5–6**
- “and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household” — **Deuteronomy 14:26)**
- “and wine to gladden the heart of man oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart.” — **Psalms 104:15**

2. Jesus was not _____ to wine.

- “The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.” — **Matthew 11:19**

3. Paul tells Timothy of a possible _____ to wine.

- “No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.” — **1 Timothy 5:23**

II. We must be keenly aware of the _____ of alcohol.

- “Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? ³⁰ Those who tarry long over wine; those who go to try mixed wine. ³¹ Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. ³² In the end it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder. ³³ Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart utter perverse things. ³⁴ You will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, like one who lies on the top of a mast. ³⁵ ‘They struck me,’ you will say, ‘but I was not hurt; they beat me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake? I must have another drink.’” — **Proverbs 23:29–35**

- **Proverbs 23 warnings about alcohol:**
 1. It can _____ problems.
 2. It can bring _____ pain (Prov. 23:29–30).
 3. It can be aggressive toward _____ (Prov. 23:29–30).
 4. Its danger is not immediately _____ but can be deadly (Prov. 23:29–30).
 5. It can keep you from seeing things as they _____ (Prov. 23:29–30).
 6. It can _____ the body (Prov. 23:29–30).
 7. It can _____ its own consequences (Prov. 23:29–30).

- **Poor use of alcohol can keep a person for serving in the _____.** “Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble..” — **Romans 14:20–21**
 - “But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.” - **1 Corinthians 5:11**

- “For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain,” — **Titus 1:7**
- “Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,” — **Titus 2:3**

III. We must be _____.

- Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.” — **Proverbs 20:1**
- “¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.” — **Ephesians 5:15–21**

Know and Do—Going Deeper, week 14: “Alcohol and the Christian” (do portion)

1. Why is it important to recognize that Scripture is not *entirely* against alcohol?
2. What kind of damage have you seen legalism cause in the church?
3. How might alcohol escalate someone’s problems?
4. Compare the needless problems from alcohol described in Proverbs 23:32–35 with the benefits of sober living described in Ephesians 5:18–21. How does such a comparison help you see God’s desire for true human thriving?
5. In what ways have you seen alcohol impair someone’s judgment?
6. What are some very real consequences of improper use of alcohol that someone might ignore?
7. Why does God address proper use of alcohol as a church leadership qualification (1 Tim. 3:2, 8; Titus 1:7)?
8. Why, when it comes to alcohol, is it better to think in terms of what is wise rather than simply what is right or wrong?
9. What do you think about the phrase, “If you aren’t willing to live without it, don’t live with it” as it applies to alcohol?