

Military Christian Fellowship of Australia

The Hard Questions Series

Topic Three: It's just a few beers...The ADF has a culture of work hard, play hard, so can military Christians drink with their mates?

Week One:

Introduction

All military Christians have faced the temptation to party harder than they have been taught is acceptable. Some Christian churches say that no alcohol is allowed, some seem to turn a blind eye when their members drink more than they should. So how far can military Christians go when everyone else is keen to party hard around them? This study examines what God says about the use and abuse of alcohol.

Can Christians drink alcohol?

- † There are 226 references to wine in the bible. Jesus drank wine, probably often. So are there definitive “rules” on alcohol?
 - The Nazirites couldn't touch alcohol (Num 5:2 – 4).
 - The Priests couldn't drink before going into the Tabernacle. Lev 10:8 – 9.
 - Are there any other laws about alcohol use in the Bible?
- † What did Jesus say/do with wine?
 - A miracle with wine. Jn 2:1 – 11.
 - The rite of communion.
 - The drink they drink in heaven? Mk 14:23 – 25.
- † What extremes can drunkenness lead to?
 - Loss of inheritance? Gen 9:20 – 27.
 - The worst kind of sin? Gen 19:33 – 36.

Is there a distinction between drinking and drunkenness?

- † What does Paul compare drunkards to in 1 Cor 6:9 -11?
- † How will your friends respond when you refuse to get drunk? 1 Pet 4:1 – 6.

Week Two:

What is the Defence policy on alcohol use and how is this different to God's policy?

- † What is the ADF definition of an alcohol problem? Why don't we know? How do we define the responsible use of alcohol?
- † What are the health impacts of alcohol abuse?
- † Is the Defence policy of responsible use and God's policy the same?

What are the spiritual impacts if we over-indulge?

- † Do we lose or gain respect if we party too hard? Is this the sort of respect we want to have? Romans 13:13 - 14.
- † Is witnessing harder or easier if we are “one of the boys”?
- † Are we rejecting the person or the lifestyle if we refuse to party hard? How can we avoid alienating our mates and at the same time avoid the temptation to drink too much?

Conclusion

God expects Christians to follow His laws and obey his commands. He also expects us to be in the world, not separate from it. Jesus was criticized for attending parties with sinners but was he ever recorded as being drunk? There is no biblical direction that prevents Christians from drinking alcohol but there are serious repercussions, both spiritually and physically, if we are drunkards. Some prefer to just avoid it all together. Make a choice.