

“Answering The Social Drinker’s Arguments”

Lesson Text: **Proverbs 20:1.**

Argument #1: “All Wine In The Bible Is Intoxicating Wine.”

- The Word “Wine” Is Generic To Both Fermented And Unfermented Grape Juice.
- We Think of Wine Today As Always Fermented/Alcoholic, But Not In Ancient Times.
- Distilled Wine Was Not Possible Then In Bible Times, Therefore Not The Same!
 - **R. Laird Harris writes**, “Concentrated alcohol was only known in the Middle Ages when the Arabs invented distillation (“alcohol” is an Arabic word), so what is called liquor or strong drink (i.e. whiskey, gin, etc.) and the twenty percent fortified wines were unknown in Bible times.”
- “New Wine” **Nehemiah 10:39; Proverbs 3:10; Isaiah 65:8; Luke 5:37-38.**
- “Sweet Wine” **Isaiah 49:26; Amos 9:13.** – “Mixed Wine” **Proverbs 9:5 & 23:30.**
- Wine That Was Fermented Was Only About 5 to 8 percent Alcohol, and Then That Was Watered Down By A Ratio of 3 To 1— Thus nullifying The Intoxicating Affect.

Argument #2: “The Bible Doesn’t Condemn Drinking In Moderation.”

- Some Assume Moderation In Drinking: **1 Timothy 3:3; 3:8; Titus 1:7; 2:3.**
- It Is Prohibiting Certain Actions Altogether: **1 Timothy 3:3 (NASB; ESV; LEX...)**
- The Moderation Advocate Must Know Exactly When Drunkenness Occurs, To Avoid Crossing The Line Entering Drunkenness. A Dangerous Game Indeed!!
- If One Makes The Claim Of True Moderation Based On Bible Times, Then He Must Only Drink The Watered Down Wine Of Those Times! No One Is Willing To Do That....

Argument #3: “Even Jesus Turned Water To Wine.”

- Jesus Turned Water To Wine In **John 2:1-11.**
- Some Try To See Only Alcoholic Wine In This In Two Ways:
 - (1) “Good Wine” (vs. 10), To Them Can Only Mean Alcoholic.
 - **Kalos-** good, excellent in its nature and characteristics. (Thayer, J. H. (1889).
 - (2) “Well drunk” (vs. 10), Some Want To Make That The Level Of Intoxication...
 - But The Context Clearly Is Talking About The Amount Consumed.
 - **1 Corinthians 11:21.** Hungry Is In Contrast To Those “Drunk.” Literally “Filled.”
 - Drunkenness Is A Work of The Flesh! **Galatians 5:19-21.**
 - Jesus Made Equivalent To 120 to 180 Gallons Of Wine— No Moderation Possible!
- Jesus Did Not Sin By Giving More Alcohol To People Already In A Drunken State!

Argument #4: “Wine Is Good For Medicinal Purposes.”

- **1 Timothy 5:23.** But People Who Quote This Verse Are Using It As Means Of Justification to Drink.
- The Harmful Affects Of Fermented Alcohol Far Outweigh The Health Benefits.
- The Same Good Medicinal Purposes Are Found In Grape Juice Itself.

Argument #5: “God Gave Us Wine To Make Our Hearts Merry.”

- **Psalms 104:14-15.**
- The Context Is Extremely Important In Any Verse! God Only Gives Us What Is Good!
- **James 1:17.**