

# What the Bible says about Alcohol and Drugs

## The Bible and Alcohol

Alcohol is the most commonly used drug in the world, and it is also one of the oldest. The Bible teaches that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, it says, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies." This passage makes it clear that our bodies are not our own to do with as we please. Instead, we are called to honor God with our bodies. This means that we are called to treat our bodies with respect and care. Using drugs and alcohol is not consistent with this call to honor God with our bodies.

One of the most well-known passages in the Bible about alcohol is found in the book of Proverbs. Proverbs 20:1 says, "Wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging; whoever is led astray by them is not wise." This passage tells us that alcohol can lead people to make unwise decisions and behave in ways that are not in line with God's teachings. Another passage in the Bible that addresses alcohol is found in the New Testament, in the book of Ephesians. Ephesians 5:18 says, "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." This passage emphasizes the importance of self-control and the dangers of losing control through alcohol consumption. The passage also tells us that being filled with the Holy Spirit is a more fulfilling and positive experience than being filled with alcohol.

Similarly, in Ephesians 5:18, the apostle Paul warns against the use of wine and other intoxicants, urging Christians to be filled with the Spirit instead. This passage suggests that the use of drugs and alcohol can lead to sinful behavior and a departure from God's will. Instead of seeking pleasure through substance abuse, Christians are encouraged to seek joy and fulfillment through their relationship with God and the Holy Spirit. Perhaps the most famous biblical passage addressing drug and alcohol use is found in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. In this passage, Paul lists several types of people who will not inherit the kingdom of God, including "drunkards" and "those who practice magic arts." This passage demonstrates that the use of drugs and alcohol is incompatible with the Christian faith and may even lead to eternal damnation.

In addition to these general arguments, there are several specific biblical passages that condemn the use of alcohol. One such passage is found in Proverbs 23:29-35, where the author warns against the dangers of drinking and drunkenness. The passage describes the negative effects of alcohol on the body, mind, and spirit, and suggests that those who indulge in excessive drinking are likely to suffer the consequences. The author concludes by saying that those who indulge in drinking and drunkenness will regret it in the end, and their lives will be filled with sorrow and pain.

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While the Bible does not explicitly mention drugs in the way we understand them today, there are passages that address the use of mind-altering substances. In the Old Testament, there are references to the use of drugs in pagan rituals, which were seen as contrary to God's teachings. For example, in Deuteronomy 18:10-12, the Israelites are warned against practicing divination, sorcery, or witchcraft, which were often associated with the use of mind-altering substances.

In the New Testament, there are passages that tell us Christians should avoid using drugs or engaging in activities that alter their state of mind. In 1 Peter 5:8, This passage suggests that Christians should be clear-headed and focused, ready to resist temptation and remain faithful to God. The use of drugs and alcohol can impair one's ability to be sober-minded, making it easier to succumb to temptation and fall away from the faith. Christians are warned to "be alert and of sober mind" because the devil is always looking for ways to tempt and deceive them. Similarly, in 1 Corinthians 6:12, the apostle Paul reminds believers that while they have freedom in Christ, they should not let anything "master" them or control their behavior.

### **The Bible and Addiction**

Another reason the Bible discourages the use of drugs and alcohol is the potential for addiction. Addiction is a complex issue that affects millions of people around the world, and it is often associated with substance abuse. The Bible recognizes the dangers of addiction and the negative impact it can have on a person's life.

In Proverbs 23:31-32, the author warns against the dangers of alcohol addiction, saying, "Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly! In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper." This passage emphasizes the gradual and insidious nature of addiction, and how it can lead people down a dangerous path.

In conclusion, the Bible provides guidance on how to live a righteous and fulfilling life. One of the principles that it teaches is abstaining from drugs and alcohol. The reasons behind this teaching are numerous and include protecting our physical and mental health, avoiding addiction and dependency, and maintaining a clear and sober mind to make wise decisions. The Bible reminds us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and that we should treat them with respect and honor. Ultimately, choosing to abstain from drugs and alcohol aligns with God's will for our lives and allows us to fully experience the abundant life He has planned for us.

We love our community and all the souls that live in it. If you are struggling and need help finding your way, please call on us.

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> we had corresponding lessons on this topic. Check our website for sermons titled "Alcohol – Part 1" from the AM service and "Alcohol – Part 2" from the PM service. Also, you can find our worship services on our Facebook page.