

Is it ok to drink alcohol?

There are several different views from Christians regarding the use of alcohol by the Christian.

1. Are there any useful purposes for alcohol consumption?

Numbers **28:7**

Deuteronomy 14:26

1 Timothy **5:23**

Jeremiah **48:33**

Numbers **18:12-13**

Alcohol is used in many of the temple sacrifices as offerings to the Lord. It is typically associated with the pouring out of the blood of the great sacrifice, the Lord Jesus Christ. Alcohol has been associated with several medicinal purposes. Timothy used it for stomach pain. Others have used it for effective and appropriate pain relief and control. The ability to make wine has been associated with the outpouring of God's blessing and favor.

2. Are there limitations associated with alcohol consumption?

Proverbs **23:20-21**

Leviticus **10:8-9**

Isaiah **5:11, 22-23**

Isaiah 28:5-7

Isaiah 22:11-13

Proverbs **20:1**

Romans **14:17**

Matthew **11:19**

While there are many limitations associated with the use of alcohol, the primary one has to do with drunkenness and the effects of drunkenness including a great potential for becoming poverty stricken. It is unwise to use alcohol when engaging in specific professional activities. It was forever forbidden to those who are priests actively serving in the temple. It often results in one losing their way and becoming associated with someone who lacks discernment and wisdom. It is important to remember that alcohol is called a “mocker” and causes “deception”. This implies that alcohol is often associated with a loss of self control which can lead to various forms of self humiliation. Regardless of how you feel about the use of alcohol, it is important to remember that the use of alcohol has nothing to do with salvation. Salvation is the work of God and Christ and brings about righteousness. One thing for people to keep in mind is that even Jesus did do some casual or social drinking so those who are against alcohol consumption need to be careful not to take their arguments against it too far.

3. Why do people drink alcohol?

Proverbs **31:6-7**

Proverbs **23:29-35**

Nehemiah **8:9-10**

One of the main reasons people drink alcohol is to escape their perceived sorrows. It is often associated with an attempt at running away from problems and escaping whatever is going on in their life. It works as a numbing agent to aid in temporary forgetfulness. Another common reason for the use of alcohol is in various celebrations.

4. Are there specific reasons to avoid alcohol?

Numbers **6:2-4**

Proverbs **31:4-5**

One of the distinguishing characteristics of people who are called to avoid alcohol are those who take a vow of commitment or dedication to the Lord. Another characteristic is those who are in significant positions of leadership and who need to be able to adequately handle judgment and otherwise clear thinking.