

DRINKING & GAMBLING

Handout for Lesson 7 of *Thought Provoking Questions*

COMMON WRONG ARGUMENTS

- #1) Fresh grape juice is not wine. The word “wine” always implies fermentation.
- #2) Fresh grapes were available only for a short time each year so wine at other times must have been fermented.
- #3) The ancients were unable to keep grape juice from fermenting.

QUESTIONS ADDRESSED

- #1) Did Jesus create intoxicating wine in John 2:1-11?
- #2) Doesn't Acts 2:13 prove that new wine is intoxicating?
- #3) What about 1 Timothy 5:23 where Timothy was told to use wine for his stomach's sake?
- #4) What about 1 Timothy 3:8 where deacons are told not to be given to *much* wine?
- #5) What about Matthew 9:17 where Jesus said that new wineskins are needed for new wine?
- #6) Did the Last Supper involve intoxicating wine?

WATER INTO WINE IN JOHN 2

The common belief that Christ created alcoholic wine in John 2 rests on five assumptions, each of which is wrong.

- #1) It is assumed that the Greek word used in John 2 for wine always means fermented wine.
- #2) It is assumed that if the first wine at the feast was alcoholic, then the wine Jesus created must also have been alcoholic.
- #3) It is assumed that grape juice would not have been available six months after the grape harvest.

#4) It is assumed that “the good wine” must have been alcoholic wine.

#5) It is assumed that the phrase “well drunk” means intoxicated.

“I am satisfied that there was little resemblance in the wine made by Christ to the thing described in the Scripture of God as biting like a serpent and stinging like an adder. Doubtless rather it was like the heavenly fruit of the vine that He will drink new with His own in His Father's kingdom. No wonder the governor of the wedding feast at Cana pronounced it the best wine kept until the last. Never before had he tasted such wine, and never did he taste it again.” (Wm. Pettingill)

10 REASONS TO ABSTAIN

- #1) It is the safe course of action.
- #2) You do not support the liquor industry.
- #3) It is hard enough to be holy while sober.
- #4) You will be seen as different in a sin-soaked world.
- #5) We are commanded to be sober and watchful.
- #6) We don't want our children to drink.
- #7) It removes a powerful weapon from Satan's arsenal.
- #8) Alcohol is a mocker.
- #9) Alcohol enslaves.
- #10) Alcohol ruins families.

WHAT IS GAMBLING?

- #1) It determines ownership of property by a partial or total appeal to chance.
- #2) The outcome is typically evident within a short period of time.

#3) It is a zero-sum game that merely takes money from the loser and gives it to the winner.

#4) It involves trying to get something for nothing by risking the loss of what you have.

#5) It is often anonymous.

15 REASONS NOT TO GAMBLE

- #1) It has a negative effect on our society.
- #2) It is wasteful. It ignores our role as a steward.
- #3) It is foolish.
- #4) It is addictive.
- #5) It is worldly.
- #6) Its goal is to get; not give.
- #7) It brings unjust gain.
- #8) It exploits the poor.
- #9) It is covetous.
- #10) It is idolatrous.
- #11) It encourages “get rich quick” thinking and displays a wrong attitude about work.
- #12) It encourages greed, materialism, and discontent and displays a wrong attitude about money.
- #13) It displays a wrong attitude about the universe.
- #14) It destroys the home.
- #15) It violates the Golden Rule.

“To risk money haphazardly in gambling is to completely disregard the Biblical truth that our possessions are a trust for which we must someday give full account to God.”

“Your chances of winning the lottery are about the same whether or not you buy a ticket!”