

## **Be Not Drunk with Wine, Part 3**

*John MacArthur*

### I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 5:18.
- B. The Christian and the use of alcoholic beverages is a major issue.
- C. The Bible does not teach that it is wrong to drink wine.

### II. The drinking of biblical times is not the same as today.

- A. All forms of wine were mixed with water.
- B. All saw that the pure alcohol was barbaric during biblical times.

### III. Drinking alcohol is a choice. (Acts 10, Romans 14)

### IV. Drinking alcohol may not be the best choice.

A. In God's basic economy in Israel there was separation among the peoples—there were higher standards for peoples of higher responsibilities. (Leviticus 10:8)

1. The higher the position, the greater the responsibility. (James 3:1)
2. The priests were called to a higher level of devotion—they were not to drink.
3. Kings were not to drink either because God did not want their judgment clouded.

B. Anybody in Israel could consecrate himself or herself to God through a Nazarite vow and refrain from alcohol. (Numbers 6:1, I Samuel 1:14-15, Judges 13:4, Luke 1:15, Amos 2:11, Lamentations 4:7, Jeremiah 35:2-6, Daniel 11:11, II Corinthians 6:17, 7:1)

C. In the New Testament, we are all called to the highest level.

D. Leaders in the church ought not to be “beside” wine. (I Timothy 3)

### V. Drinking ought to be avoided because it is habit forming. (I Corinthians 6:12)

- A. Alcohol has the ability to tangle a person up.
- B. What is habit forming can be potentially destructive. (Ephesians 5:18, Luke 15:13, Proverbs 4:17, Deuteronomy 21:7, Isaiah 28:7, Joel 1:5, Isaiah 7, Amos 2, 4, 6)

### VI. Drinking may cause others to stumble. (I Corinthians 8:9, Romans 14)

### VII. Drinking may harm one's Christian testimony. (Romans 14:16, I Corinthians 10:31)

VIII. One should not enter into anything that he has doubt about because it is a violation of conscience. (Romans 13:22)

**Application questions:**

1. What were the most potent reasons the speaker gives for refraining from drink?

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2. What is your response to the message? Did the speaker miss some important points or were you in complete agreement with him? Explain.

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3. What are some other areas that a Christian might be able to apply some of these principles?

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