



The Correspondent



SUNDAY
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM
Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM
www.collinsville-troycoc.org
(618) 667-6708

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

Vol. 49 No. 49

1400 Troy Road Collinsville, Illinois 62234

December 5, 2021

Is One, One Too Many?

-Renn Ferguson

While ago I had a friend sent me a text message asking me how to show to someone that even just one alcoholic drink is too many. Unfortunately, many people hold the view that as long as you do not become drunk it is alright to have a drink. Those who take that stance love Ephesians 5:18 here the scriptures read “And be not drunk with wine wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.” (KJV) People will come to this passage and say that since the scripture says “wherein is excess” that justifies a little as long as you aren't excessive with it. There are numerous passages that can refute this idea and we will look at those passages in this article.



The first one to notice is the very passage that everyone goes to defend it, Ephesians 5:18. As mentioned beforehand people love using this verse but what most do not realize is that the phrase “be not drunk” actually means to not even begin the process of doing it. If you have e-sword on your phone or tablet look at what Strong's has to say about that. For the word drunk, the Greek word is “methuskô” which as many might guess means to be intoxicated, or simply put drunk. Then there is the Strong's reference number G3361 right next to that. If you look up that number you will notice that the word there is “mç”. This word means “never, no, none, not, nothing”. Other lexicons define the term as the process to becoming drunk. Thus, not the being drunk is condemned (which is certainly still true) but the process of getting drunk is condemned. So, even the go-to verse that many use to prove that one drink is alright completely rejects that idea and gives no support for their argument. However there are many other verses to look at.

Another great verse to look at is 1 Peter 4:3. Here Peter writes “For the time is past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revelings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries.” (KJV) The word we must focus on in this passage is banquetings. The New King James Version translates this word as “drinking parties”. This term, I believe, applies specifically to social gatherings where the intended purpose is to drink alcohol. Many people have no problem with going to a social outing and having a glass of wine or a beer with their meal or some other alcoholic beverage. Since they are not getting full-fledged drunk, they deem it acceptable. Well, this verse very clearly states that as Christians we are no longer to participate in those banquetings or drinking gatherings. Peter says that time in our life has passed, it's over, we cannot participate in that type of behavior anymore.

Too many people including members of the Church feel like one drink every now and again will not hurt. However, we see throughout scripture that the use of alcohol save for medicinal purposes (1 Timothy 5:23) is condemned. So, is just one, one too many? Absolutely.