

Don’t Dilute Your Light

This study packet is going to be a bit different than some of the ones we have done in the past. It covers a rather broad and slightly contentious subject. The goal of this study packet is to take an honest look at what the Bible says about consuming alcohol so we can act in a godly manner.

Word Studies!

Hebrew:

- I. In Genesis 9:21, what is the Strong’s number for the Hebrew word translated as “wine?” _____
 - a. What is the definition for this word? _____
 - b. List two other occurrences of this word and how your English Bible translates it:
 - i. Passage: _____ Translated as: _____
 - ii. Passage: _____ Translated as: _____
- II. In Numbers 18:12, what is the Strong’s number for the Hebrew word translated as “wine?” _____
 - a. What is the definition for this word? _____
 - b. List two other occurrences of this word and how your English Bible translates it:
 - i. Passage: _____ Translated as: _____
 - ii. Passage: _____ Translated as: _____
- III. In Numbers 28:7, what is the Strong’s number for the Hebrew word translated as “wine” or “strong drink?” _____
 - a. What is the definition for this word? _____
 - b. List two other occurrences of this word and how your English Bible translates it:
 - i. Passage: _____ Translated as: _____
 - ii. Passage: _____ Translated as: _____
- IV. In Daniel 5:1, what is the Strong’s number for the Hebrew word translated as “wine” _____

- a. What is the definition for this word? _____

- b. List two other occurrences of this word and how your English Bible translates it:
- i. Passage: _____ Translated as: _____
- ii. Passage: _____ Translated as: _____
- V. In Isaiah 65:11, what is the Strong’s number for the Hebrew word translated as “wine” _____
- a. What is the definition for this word? _____

- b. List two other occurrences of this word and how your English Bible translates it:
- i. Passage: _____ Translated as: _____
- ii. Passage: _____ Translated as: _____
- VI. In Joel 3:18, what is the Strong’s number for the Hebrew word translated as “wine” _____
- a. What is the definition for this word? _____

- b. List two other occurrences of this word and how your English Bible translates it:
- i. Passage: _____ Translated as: _____
- ii. Passage: _____ Translated as: _____
- VII. In each instance of the word “wine” in the Old Testament, does it necessarily mean the same thing as we think of when we talk about people drinking “wine” today? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- VIII. In your own words please write a short paragraph about the different meanings the word “wine” might have when we read it in the Old Testament: _____

Greek:

- I. In Matthew 9:17, what is the Strong’s number for the Greek word translated as “wine?” _____
 - a. What is the definition for this word? _____
 - b. List two other occurrences of this word and how your English Bible translates it:
 - i. Passage: _____ Translated as: _____
 - ii. Passage: _____ Translated as: _____
- II. In Acts 2:13, what is the Strong’s number for the Greek word translated as “wine?” _____
 - a. What is the definition for this word? _____
 - b. Are there other occurrences of this word in the Bible? _____
- III. In Luke 1:15, what is the Strong’s number for the Greek word translated as “strong drink?” _____
 - a. What is the definition for this word? _____
 - b. Are there other occurrences of this word in the Bible? _____

Wine in the Old Testament

This section is not going to be dealing with accounts of people getting drunk with wine (we will cover that later). Instead, it covers what the Old Testament says about wine’s effect on a person.

- I. According to Leviticus 10:8-11, who was not allowed to drink wine or strong drink? _____
 - a. At what time were they forbidden to drink alcohol? _____
 - b. What two reasons are given for this (hint: look for “you are” phrases):
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
- II. In Numbers 6:1-20, who is forbidden to drink wine? _____

- a. Aside from wine, from what other drinks must this person separate themselves? _____

- b. From which foods was this person to separate themselves? _____

- c. What was the purpose of this separation from certain foods and drinks? _____

- III. According to Deuteronomy 14:22-27, were the people forbidden to drink wine and strong drink before the Lord for their tithe feast? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- IV. In what way were the people consuming wine in Ruth 2:14-15? _____

- V. Proverbs 20:1 says that wine is a _____, and strong drink is a _____
 - a. What description is given for the person who is led away by it? _____

- VI. According to Proverbs 21:17, what will happen to the one who loves wine? _____
- VII. Study Proverbs 23:19-35 to answer these questions:
 - a. The writer tells his son not to spend time with which two groups of people? i. _____ ii. _____
 - b. What is the result of these two activities? _____

 - c. Verses 29-30 list what results of “lingering over wine” and “Going to taste mixed wine?” _____

 - d. Because of this, what course of action is recommended in verse 31? _____

 - e. Verse 31 describes how the danger of alcohol begins with:
☐ looking ☐ tasting ☐ chugging
 - f. What animal is used to describe the impact of alcohol? _____
 - g. In verses 33-34, what negative results of drinking are given? _____

VIII. Study Proverbs 31:1-9 to answer the following questions:

- a. According to this text, alcohol is not for whom? _____
- b. What two reasons are listed for this?
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
- c. The text says to give strong drink to whom? _____
- d. The text says to give wine to whom? _____
- e. What reasons are given for this? _____

Wine in the New Testament

This section will look at what the New Testament says about drinking wine.

Note: we will not study passages in which wine is used as an analogy, as these do not bear on whether or not drinking alcohol is a good idea.

I. Study John 2:1-12 before answer these questions:

- a. How many times is the word “wine” mentioned in this section? _____
- b. Which Greek word is translated as “wine” here? _____
- c. Do we see any details in the text on whether or not people got drunk off the wine spoken of here? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- d. Thus, any statements about whether or not Jesus aided in making people drunk would be a statement based on: ☐ Fact ☐ Speculation

II. In Luke 7:33-35, of what does Jesus say He was accused? _____

- a. The people who accused Jesus of this were accurately representing His actions and character? ☐ True ☐ False
- b. Jesus condoned all the actions of all the people to whom He ministered. ☐ True ☐ False
- c. Thus, can we use this passage to condone drunkenness? ☐ Yes ☐ No

III. In what way does Jesus mention wine being used in Luke 10:30-37? _____

- a. What other liquid was used in conjunction with the wine? _____

- b. Was this being used to get intoxicated? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- IV. According to Romans 14:20-23, when is it clearly wrong to drink wine? _____

- a. Describe a practical modern situation when this teaching would be applicable: _____
- V. In Ephesians 5:18, what are we commanded **not** to do with wine? _____

- (We will study this passage in greater depth later).
- VI. According to 1 Timothy 3:3, which group of people must not be addicted to wine? _____
- a. How do the following translations render the part this verse that deals with drinking alcohol?
- i. NASB: _____ ESV: _____
 NKJV: _____ NIV: _____
- ii. What is the Strong's number for the word translated in the above ways? _____
- iii. What is the definition of this word? _____

- iv. Looking at the surrounding context, what is the reason for this instruction? _____

- VII. In 1 Timothy 3:8, which group of people must not be addicted to much wine? _____
- a. What is the Strong's Number for the Greek word translated as "Addicted" (NASB, ESV) **or** "Given to" (NKJV)? _____
- b. What is the definition of this word? _____

- c. Is this the same word used in 1 Timothy 2:3? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- d. What is the Strong's Number for the Greek word translated as "much"? _____
- e. What is the definition of this word? _____

- f. According to the surrounding context what is the reason for this instruction? _____

- VIII. Who is commanded to drink wine in 1 Timothy 5:23? _____
- a. For what two reasons was this instruction given?
- i. _____
- ii. _____
- b. How much wine was to be used? _____
- c. What is the Strong's number for the Greek word translated in the above way? _____
- d. What is the definition of this word? _____

- e. Was this being used to get intoxicated? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- IX. To whom is the instruction in Titus 2:3 directed? _____
- a. What instruction is given to them concerning wine? _____

- b. What is the Strong's number for the Greek word translated in the above manner? _____
- c. What is the definition of this word? _____

- d. Looking at the surrounding context, what is the reason for this instruction? _____

Getting Drunk in the Old Testament

Now we'll examine situations in which people got drunk and observe the results.

- I. Find three Old Testament examples of someone drinking wine which directly resulted in sin or harm of some kind:
- a. Passage: _____ Short explanation of the events: _____

- b. Passage: _____ Short explanation of the events: _____

- c. Passage: _____ Short explanation of the events: _____

- II. Find three Old Testament example of someone drinking wine which directly resulted in righteousness or some other good thing (Caveat – the good event must be the direct result of the wine, not simply a good event that happened later):
- a. Passage: _____ Short explanation of the events: _____

- b. Passage: _____ Short explanation of the events: _____

- c. Passage: _____ Short explanation of the events: _____

- III. Find three Old Testament examples of someone drinking wine which directly resulted in neither good nor evil:
- a. Passage: _____ Short explanation of the events: _____

- b. Passage: _____ Short explanation of the events: _____

- c. Passage: _____ Short explanation of the events: _____

- IV. Which examples were easier to find? ☐ Bad ☐ Good ☐ Neutral
- V. Take a look at Proverbs 5:15-23 to answer these questions:
- a. It is good to be intoxicated by: _____
- b. A person should not be intoxicated by: _____

- c. Briefly explain the correlation between being intoxicated by alcohol and what is spoken of here: _____

Getting Drunk in the New Testament

While the passages about wine and the passages about getting drunk are often tied together, being drunk / intoxicated does not exclusively result from drinking alcohol. Thus it is important for us to study what the New Testament specifically says about getting drunk.

- I. In Luke 12:41-48, who got drunk? _____

- a. Was the behavior of this person praised or condemned? _____

- II. According to 1 Corinthians 5:9-13, in what way should we react to a Christian who is a drunkard? _____

- a. What is the Strong’s number for the word translated as “drunkard?” _____

- b. What is the definition for this word? _____

- c. What other sins are mentioned in this list? _____

- d. In verse 13, what does Paul say to do with the evil person? _____

- e. Study the rest of chapter 5. What reason does Paul give for being so strict about this? _____

- III. In 1 Corinthians 11:17-22, under what circumstances were people getting drunk? _____

- a. Did Paul praise or condemn this behavior? _____

- IV. Study Ephesians 5:15-21 to answer these questions:

- a. In what way should we walk? _____

- i. Can we follow that command if we are intoxicated? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- b. What should we do with the time? _____
- i. Can we follow that command if we are intoxicated? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- c. We should not be _____, but instead we should understand _____
- i. Can we follow that command if we are intoxicated? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- d. What command is given about getting drunk with wine? _____
- e. What word is used to describe getting drunk with wine? _____
- i. What is the Strong’s number for the above word? _____
- ii. What is the definition of this word? _____
- f. What should we be filled with instead of wine? _____
- V. According to both 1 Timothy 3:3 and Titus 1:7, who must not be a drunkard? _____
- a. According to the contexts of these passages, what is the reason for this instruction? _____
- _____
- _____

Being Sober / Sober-minded

We would be remiss if we did not study the opposite of drunkenness. As Christians we must be clear-minded in our thinking and able to discern right from wrong!

- I. Is Romans 12:3-8 dealing specifically with drinking alcohol? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- a. The word “sober” referring to what in this section? _____
- _____
- b. What is the Strong’s number for the Greek word translated as “sober” here? _____
- c. What is the definition of this word? _____
- _____
- d. Could a person fulfill the commands of this section if they were intoxicated? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- II. Study 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 to answer these questions:
- a. How many times is the word “sober” used in this section? _____

- i. What is the Strong’s number for this Greek word? _____
 - ii. What is the definition for this word? _____

 - b. How many times is the word “drunk” used in this section? _____
 - c. Is this section talking specifically about alcohol consumption? _____
 - d. What is the overall message of this section? _____

 - e. What reason is given for why we need to be sober? _____

 - f. Is getting drunk a desirable attribute in this section? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- III. In 1 Timothy 3, which two groups of people must be sober-minded?
- a. _____ b. _____
- IV. In 2 Timothy 4:1-5, who is commanded to be sober-minded? _____
- a. What reason is given for this instruction? _____

 - b. Could this command be fulfilled while being intoxicated? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- V. In Titus 2:2, who is commanded to be sober-minded? _____
- a. What other attributes should accompany sober-mindedness? _____

- VI. Study 1 Peter 1:13-21 to answer these questions:
- a. Along with being sober-minded, what else should we do with our minds? _____
 - b. Where should we set our hope? _____
 - c. In doing this, to what should we not be conformed? _____
 - d. Instead, we should we strive to be what? _____
 - e. Can we follow these instructions while intoxicated? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- VII. In 1 Peter 4:7-11 what motivation is given for being sober-minded? _____

- a. What other attribute is mentioned alongside sober-mindedness? _____

- b. What other direct commands are given in this section? _____

- c. Can we fulfill these commands while intoxicated? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- VIII. In 1 Peter 5:6-11 what reason is given for being sober-minded? _____

- a. What action is mentioned alongside being sober-minded? _____

What about the cup of the Lord’s Supper?

- I. In Matthew 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25, and Luke 22:15-20, what is the Strong’s number for the Greek word translated as “fruit of the vine?” _____
- II. What is the definition of this word? _____
- III. This word is not found in the Bible very many times. To see another occurrence of this word we must go to 2 Corinthians 9:10. In what way is this word translated in 2 Corinthians 9:10? _____
- IV. In Matthew 26:29; when Jesus says “I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now until...”
- a. The definite article “this” shows us that Jesus is talking about the liquid that was in the cup He passed around. ☐ True ☐ False
- b. Please explain your answer: _____

- V. In 1 Corinthians 11:17-26, were the Corinthians praised or rebuked for getting intoxicated during the Lord’s supper? _____
- VI. What is the purpose for the Lord’s supper? _____

- VII. Is the Lord’s Supper an excuse to drink alcohol? ☐ Yes ☐ No