



SR Stance on Alcohol

What is Solid Rock's view on alcohol? To answer this question, we have to consider answering two questions. First, does the Bible consider drinking alcohol as a sin? If it is sin, then we need not ask any other questions. If the Bible does not consider alcohol consumption sin, then we need to ask the next question: Should the Christian have any hesitations in consuming alcohol?

The first question is easily answered in the fact that Jesus himself drank wine. This was common practice at formal dinners, parties, times of worship and obviously at the Passover meal. There is some debate over whether or not the Greek word *oinos* actually represents fermented grape juice or unfermented grape juice. To understand the actual Biblical meaning, let's consider that Noah drank from the fruit of the vine in Genesis 9 and became drunk. The Hebrew word for the fruit of the vine in this Old Testament was *yayin*, which is the Hebrew word for fermented grape drink. The Jews also translate Genesis 9 into Greek in the Septuagint and used the word *oinos*. While at a wedding in Canaan, Jesus turns a container of water into *oinos* (John 2:1-12). During the Passover, Jesus used the bread and *oinos* to transition the Passover meal into the Lord's Supper or Communion. In 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, Paul says that he passed on to the church what he received from Jesus in the celebration of the Lord's Supper (Communion) with the elements of *oinos* and bread. If the wine used in the Lord's Supper was unfermented juice, how were the people of the church drinking too much of it and becoming drunk as Paul described in verse 21? In Luke 7:33, Jesus says that John the Baptist didn't eat bread or drink *oinos*. And then he says in the next verse that "The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'" Not only was Jesus admitting to eating bread and drinking *oinos*, he also admitted that people considered him a drunkard.



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Why would Jesus actively provide fermented drink for people to drink if it were sin and institute an ordinance for the church that uses fermented wine as one of the key elements? To conclude, alcohol in and of itself is not evil, nor is drinking alcohol inherently a sin. That being stated, the Bible does provide the parameters of *moderation* and *prudence* for drinking alcohol.

Moderation – To drink in moderation is to be strategically mindful of the amount of alcohol being consumed and the effects of the alcohol on the body and to limit alcohol consumption to a level that allows for the person to maintain good decision making, self-control and awareness of safety and responsibility for their environment.

Ephesians 5:15-18 15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

Galatians 5:19-25 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Romans 13:13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.



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1 Timothy 3:8 *Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.*

The Biblical Implications of Moderation

1. The Bible teaches that drinking to the point of drunkenness is sin.
2. The Bible teaches that drinking alcohol to the point of addiction is sin.
3. The Bible teaches that drinking alcohol to the point where the alcohol, rather than the Holy Spirit, controls a person's decisions is sin.

Prudence – To drink alcohol in prudence is to be strategically concerned with the environment and the company present while drinking alcohol. While moderation is the ability to know how much to drink, prudence is the ability to know when and where and with whom to drink alcohol.

Romans 14:20-21 *20 Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. 21 It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.*

1 Corinthians 8:10-13 *10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? 11 And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. 12 Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.*



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The Biblical Implications of Prudence

1. The Bible teaches that drinking alcohol in a manner that tempts another person or leads a person towards sin is sin.
2. The Bible teaches that drinking alcohol in a manner that offends another person is sin.
3. The Bible teaches that active engagement in drinking alcohol that gives the impression of imprudence or lack of moderation is sin.

Solid Rock Church Policy on Alcohol - At Solid Rock Church, there is no simple rule (meaning “alcohol is bad” or “alcohol is good”) that governs our practice or lack of practice towards alcohol. There are a number of variables to be considered before making a decision to drink alcohol, including personal self-control, location, spiritual maturity of those who accompany and the responsibilities that follow drinking, such as driving a car, returning to work, caring for children, etc.

SR Sponsored Events - It is Solid Rock Church policy to not drink alcohol at any Solid Rock Church sponsored activities or events, with the exception of Communion (note: we serve grape juice in our services). It is our conviction that every time we gather as the body, whether formally or informally, we should be prepared to minister to anyone who shows up and we should be willing to refrain from anything that could hinder the work of the Gospel in another person’s life.



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SR Members – Members of Solid Rock are, first, members of God’s kingdom and subject to the principals of Christian living taught explicitly in the scriptures. Therefore, it should be understood by SR members that anything that violates the clear mandates of scripture is sin and the body has a responsibility to gently and gracefully hold one another accountable on all issues of Godly living, including prudence and moderation in drinking alcohol.

SR Staff & Leadership – Because church leadership is held to a higher standard of accountability, both by the church and God’s word, it is SR policy that no one serving in leadership willingly puts themselves in a situation that gives the impression of drunkenness or offensiveness in drinking alcohol. While SR leaders are not forbidden to drink alcohol, they are held accountable to exercise prudent judgment on the locations, company, and amount of alcohol consumed and are expected, at all times, to remain above reproach in this matter.

***Ephesians 5:3** But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.*

***1 Timothy 3:7** Moreover, he (church leader) must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.*