

April 28, 2013

Sobering Facts about Social Drinking

Proverbs 23:29-33

This subject is very sensitive and very controversial, but it shouldn't be. It has been most sensitive in the church for years-especially among many Southern Baptists.

In no way am I aiming this message toward any specific person. I know several people who drink alcohol and beer. Even though these people are my friends, I disagree with their choices. If you are listening to this message and you are not a Christian, this message does not even apply to you. If you have never been saved, drinking isn't your problem... your problem is that you have never established a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Today's message is for the body of Jesus Christ and, more specifically, the family of God at Clements.

Sobering facts:

- Alcohol is a \$100 billion business in America.
- Alcohol costs the government \$8.00 per \$1.00 spent on alcohol to clean up the wreckage it leaves behind.
- Alcohol consumption reduces the life expectancy of an individual by an average of 10 years.
- 62 people will die in an alcohol-related automobile accidents per day in America.
- 450,000 teenagers turn into alcoholics each year.
- Every weekday night, from 10 P.M. & 1 A.M. one in thirteen drivers are drunk.
- Between 1 A.M. & 6 A.M. on weekends one in seven are drunk.

Why is alcohol so dangerous?

1. The availability of it

- Fermented beverages have been consumed by mankind ever since Noah made wine and got drunk after the flood.

2. The acceptance of it

3. The effect of it

Three Warnings to Every Christian Concerning Social Drinking:

I. The Brutal Destruction of Alcohol (Proverbs 20:1)

- Solomon warned parents to teach their children three serious things:
 1. Always stay away from the immoral woman (Proverbs 5:3-8)
 2. Always secure Godly counsel (Proverbs 11:14)
 3. Always steer clear of alcohol (Proverbs 20:1)

- Four types of alcohol problems:
 1. **Emotional** Problems (Proverbs 23:29a)
 2. **Social** Problems (Proverbs 23:29b).
 3. **Physical** Problems (Proverbs 29:23c)
 - The number one drug problem in America isn't cocaine, marijuana, meth, or heroine; it's a legal substance called alcohol.
 4. **Mental** Problems (Proverbs 23:33)

II. The Biblical Description of Alcohol

- Three different Biblical words to describe alcohol:
 1. **Shekar** – Hebrew (Leviticus 10:9; Proverbs 31:4-7)
 2. **Yayin** – Hebrew (Proverbs 20:1; Isaiah 16:10)
 3. **Oinos** – Greek (John 2; I Timothy 5:23)

III. The Best Decision Concerning Alcohol

- Three Individuals Who Choose Total Abstinence from Alcohol:
 1. The Nazarenes (Numbers 6:1-3)
 2. Daniel (Daniel 1:8)
 3. John the Baptist (Luke 1:13-16)
- Parents teach one of two things when it comes to drinking:
 1. Drink in moderation
 2. Not drink at all
 - Moderation is not the cure for drinking, it's the cause of it. For the same reason we would not tell our children to commit adultery in moderation, we should not tell our children it's acceptable to drink in moderation. The only place an alcoholic can originate from is a moderate drinker. Every drunk and problem drinker started with their first drink.

- Two words every parent ought to remember:
 1. Influence
 2. Witness

- Four questions to ask yourself when it comes to drinking:
 1. It is really necessary?
 2. Is it habit forming?
 3. Will it offend other people?
 4. Will it harm my testimony?