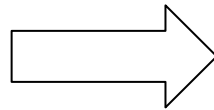


Alcohol

Read 1 Peter 2:9–10 and Exodus 19:5–6, what does God call his people to be?

What are the two extremes of understanding how we should live as Christians in the world?



What are some of the consequences of these two extremes?

Alcohol can be a potentially controversial and even emotive subject to discuss. The Bible does have something to say, particularly in providing boundary markers.

What principles do we learn from these passages?

Psalm 104:14–15	
Proverbs 31:4–7	
Romans 13:11–14	
1 Thesalonians 5:8	
1 Timothy 3:2,3,8,11	

Alcohol is a part of God's good creation.

Drunkenness is a sin and Christian leaders need to be particularly careful about their use of alcohol.

Consumption of alcohol however falls into the category of matters of good judgement (from our guidance studies). It is a matter of freedom and Christian liberty, meaning some people will make different decisions from others .

According to Galatians 5:13, what is Christian freedom for?

Read Romans 14:1–8, which is not talking about alcohol but other practices that were causing stress for first century Christians.

What are the characteristics of the

	WEAK	STRONG
Attitude to eating particular things		
Attitude to particular days		

You'll notice that the difference is not whether they eat or observe special days, the strong can either eat or not eat, they know it doesn't matter.

What principle can we take from verse 3?

Some things it may be helpful to consider when making decisions about alcohol.

Your relationship with God and your own wellbeing.

Alcohol is a depressive drug (as are other substances we consume) and it can be addictive.

Alcohol can become a problem if

- you are prone to depression
- you are tempted to get drunk
- you have a family disposition to alcoholism.

Other things to consider?

Your relationship with your Brothers/sisters in Christ.

We always need to be aware of our weaker brothers no matter what we choose.

What are some ways to do this ?

Your relationship with non Christians.

Read the following passages and discuss.

John 15:18f,

1 Peter 3:15,

1 Peter 4:1-11

Our culture

In Australia around 7,000 people a year die from alcohol abuse. Domestic violence, youth suicide, assault and problems in Aboriginal communities can all be linked with alcohol abuse too.

Pray about the drug and alcohol problems in our country and our own attitudes to both alcohol and freedom in general.