

WINE (juice with alcohol) & MINISTRY

There is much confusion among us on the subject of wine, especially concerning when and what type to use or not to use. The Apostle Paul wrote by inspiration of the Holy Ghost; “*All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.*”¹{*expedient: or, profitable*} There is a power in wine or any drink that contains alcohol!

However, “*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:.....and also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.*”² There should not be any confusion on this subject concerning its’ use in the ministry during priestly duties, but there is a time and a place for everything! For the purpose of this study, when we mention the word wine, we mean any **juice with alcohol**, naturally fermented or assisted by yeast and sugar and heating.

By two or three witnesses let every word be established.³ Without the witnesses of the Pentateuch we would not have a New Covenant. To understand the administration of the new covenant we must look at the School Master for typology and then see in the new covenant how the writers administered the anti-type **fulfilling the law**, being very careful not to break it.

We read in Leviticus and Deuteronomy⁴ that the Lord commanded Aaron the High Priest and his sons **not to drink wine or strong drink when they go into the congregation to minister before the Lord.**



Also the people were not to drink wine or strong drink in worship assemblies. The reason is so that all who stand before the Lord God, both teacher and congregation may be able to fully understand the difference between good and evil. This is **a statute forever.**



Leviticus 10:8-10

And the LORD spake unto Aaron, saying, Drink no wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tent of meeting,....that ye may put difference between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean. Specifically, those that minister as the Lord’s anointed in the place of the Lord, speaking the words given by Him.

The question may be stated; “we are not under the law and we are not High Priests!” Yet the Bible states that we are now kings and priests⁵ and I dare say that we are under a much purer law requiring a higher level of consecration and the **Statute was given Forever**. Today if we lust after the opposite sex, it is adultery or fornication without committing it.

¹ 1 Corinthians 6:12

² Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; 2:24.

³ Deu. 19:15; 17:6; Heb. 10:28; Mt. 18:16; 1Cor. 14:29.

⁴ Lev. 10:8-11; Deu. 29:1-6.

⁵ Rev. 1:6;5:10.

In actual fact, the Nazarite Vow called for a higher level of consecration than others and they were not allowed to have wine, strong drink, kernel or husk of grain, moist grapes, vinegar or liquor of grapes. When John the Baptist came on the scene he too followed the Nazarite Vow.⁶ During the formative years of preparation for the ministry there are many very intimate times with the Lord when men make vows of consecration even today and one must be careful to pay their vow. These are to be made out of Love for the Lord and not to acquire position or favor with the people.

Then comes the recording in scripture of how Jesus who for the wedding made good wine which the ruler of the feast tasted; *'the water that was made wine.'* This was wine that when men well drank of it during the wedding they made merry. It was during a time to **'enjoy the good of all their labour.'** Then there is the statement by Paul to **'drink a little wine for thy stomachs sake. In both cases it was not during the administration of priestly duties.'**

We note that in the writings of Paul⁷ during his chiefly councils to Titus he stated that a Bishop (overseer) must be blameless, *"not given {it controlling you, be brought under by its' power} to wine"* (1611 AV). Paul's council to Titus was not to abstain from wine, but rather not to be 'given to it,' **meaning the wine controlling you!** This is more clearly understood when we read the words of Paul in 1 Timothy 3:3 and Titus 1:7 as written in the 1881 RV. "For the Bishop (overseer) must be blameless, as God's steward; not self willed, not soon angry, *no brawler*, (i.e., not quarrelsome over wine) no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre;

I will conclude my remarks concerning this subject by stating that God expects more from those that He has given much to and that wine (**juice with alcohol**) during communion and other church gatherings is wrong. However, during one's leisure time when not performing the duties of the ministry, a little wine is good for thy stomach's sake. There are some that are weak in the faith and would be offended if we should drink wine in front of them. To cause one to stumble who is weak or to offend such a one causing him to fall over the drinking or not drinking of wine; Is this not a sin?⁸

Meaning of words "no brawler" or "given to wine" in 1Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7⁹ Numbered 3943 in Strongs Dictionary; no brawler = one who sits long at his wine, given to wine, drunken: [al. Give it the secondary sense, 'quarrelsome over wine'; hence, brawling, abusive].

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⁶ Nu. 6:1-4; Judges 13:1-7; Lk. 1:13-16.

⁷ Titus 1:7-9.

⁸ Romans 14:19-22.

⁹ Thayers Greek English Lexicon, page 490. ISBN #1-56563-209-5