

Why I Don't Drink



**Mine is not a historically
new stance**



“It is good, then neither to eat flesh nor to drink wine,’ as both [Paul] and the Pythagoreans acknowledge. For this is rather characteristic of a beast; and the fumes arising from them being dense, darken the soul. If one partakes of them, he does not sin. Only let him partake temperately, not dependent on them, nor gaping after finer fare.”

Clement of Alexandria (153-220 AD)

The Instructor

“On Eating”

“The natural, temperate, and necessary beverage, therefore, for the thirst is water. This was the simple drink of sobriety, which, flowing from the smitten rock was supplied by the Lord to the ancient Hebrews. It was most requisite that in their wanderings they should be temperate.”

Clement of Alexandria (153-220 AD)
The Instructor
“On Drinking”

“And in the case of grown-up people, let those with whom it agrees sometimes partake of dinners, tasting bread only, and let them abstain wholly from drink; in order that their superfluous moisture may be absorbed and drunk up by the eating of dry food...And if thirst come on, let the appetite be satisfied with a little water...”

Clement of Alexandria (153-220 AD)
The Instructor
“On Drinking”

“And it is best to mix the wine with as much water as possible, and not to have recourse to it as to water, and so get enervated to drunkenness, and not pour it in as water from love of wine.”

Clement of Alexandria (153-220 AD)
The Instructor
“On Drinking”

“It is agreeable, therefore, to right reason, to drink on account of the cold of winter, till the numbness is dispelled from those who are subject to feel it; and on other occasions as a medicine for the intestines. For as we are use to food to satisfy hunger, so also are we to use drink to satisfy thirst, taking the most careful precautions against a slip...

Clement of Alexandria (153-220 AD)
The Instructor
“On Drinking”

“... ‘for the introduction of wine is perilous.’ And thus shall our soul be pure, and dry, and luminous; and the soul itself is wisest and best when dry.”

Clement of Alexandria (153-220 AD)
The Instructor
“On Drinking”

“I therefore admire those who have adopted an austere life, and who are fond of water, the medicine of temperance, and flee as far as possible from wine, shunning it as they would the danger of fire.”

Clement of Alexandria (153-220 AD)
The Instructor
“On Drinking”

“No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.”

1 Timothy 5:23

Allow me a Parallel



“Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.”

Ephesians 6:9

“Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.”

Colossians 4:1

**Why I Don't Drink:
The Biblical Case that
Leads Me Away from
Drinking**



**I don't drink because
royal priests don't drink**



“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

1 Peter 2:9

“...and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father...”

Revelation 1:6

“And the LORD spoke to Aaron, saying, ‘Drink no wine or strong drink, you or your sons with you, when you go into the tent of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations.’”

Leviticus 10:9

“It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine or for rulers to take strong drink, lest they drink and forget what has been decreed and pervert the rights of all the afflicted. Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress, let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more.”

Proverbs 31:4-7

“As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 2:4-5

**I don't drink because
Wisdom advises
against it**



“Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice...If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you...Because you have ignored my counsel and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you...”

Proverbs 1:20, 23, 25-26

“Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and
whoever is led astray by it is not wise.”

Proverbs 20:1

“Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife?
Who has complaining? Who has wounds without
cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who tarry long
over wine; those who go to try mixed wine. Do not look
at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and
goes down smoothly. In the end it bites like a serpent
and stings like an adder. Your eyes will see strange
things, and your heart utter perverse things. You will
be like one who lies down in the midst of sea, like one
who lies on the top of a mast, ‘They struck me,’ you will
say, ‘but I was not hurt; they beat me, but I did not feel
it. When shall I awake? I must have another drink.’”

Proverbs 23:29-35

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”

James 1:5

**I don't drink because
in the face of battle, I
want to pursue sobriety,
not flirt with drunkenness**



“So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.”

1 Thessalonians 5:6-10

“Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ...Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

1 Peter 1:13; 5:8

“It takes 1 hour for the alcohol from one drink (12 oz. of beer, 5 oz. of wine, a 1½ oz. ‘shot’ of 80 proof whiskey or mixed drink) to leave the body. So a 150-180 lb. person could consume 1 drink per hour and still stay relatively sober.”

What Every Teenager Should Know About
Alcohol
Mental Health and Mental Retardation of
Southeast Texas
(emphasis mine, *ELC*)

**I don't drink because
I need to be full of the
Spirit**



“...that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being.”

Ephesians 3:16

“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.”

Ephesians 5:18

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