

"NOT GIVEN TO MUCH WINE"

Greg Gwin

We continue to hear some Christians who go to 1st Timothy 3:8 and Titus 2:3 in an effort to justify "social drinking." Both of these passages, though addressing different groups of individuals, use the phrase, "*not given to much wine.*" The argument is made that the verses do not condemn drinking, rather only warn about excessive drinking. The idea is, we are told, that a person can drink some wine, but must avoid drinking "*much*" wine and becoming intoxicated. In fact, these folks would have us to believe that the verses include a clear implication that moderate drinking is approved by God. We deny it!

Does the expression "*not given to much wine*" give implied consent to drinking of intoxicants up to a certain level? No!

Consider this illustration: My children have been bathed and dressed in their "Sunday-go-to-meetin' clothes". Before we leave for the services they ask for permission to play outside. I say, "Yes, but don't get all dirty." Think about that statement for a moment. Do you comprehend my meaning? What is implied? Do I mean that they can get a little dirty? Would I be pleased if they got muddy only up to their knees? Of course not! My meaning is that they should not get dirty at all.

And so it is with the expression "*not given to much wine.*" It clearly prohibits excessive drinking. But to suggest that moderate drinking is approved in these verses is simply illogical and contradicts other plain Bible teachings. The same flawed logic would lead us to the conclusion that the command "*thou shalt not kill*" lends endorsement of any violent conduct that ends just short of murder. Who can believe it?

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the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness' (Matthew 7:21-23).

By definition, a Christian is a person who is in Christ, and that necessitates baptism, "*for as many of you as were baptized into Christ*

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ADMONITIONS TO PARENTS OF TEENS

David Pratt

1. **Always Be Consistent with Teens.** Don't compromise your standards just because they wear you down with asking.
2. **Live What You Expect of Your Teens.** Don't expect something of them you are not willing to do yourself.
3. **Don't Beat Your Head Against the Wall When You Fail.** Like adults, teens can be temp-ted. Evil companions corrupt good morals. It takes lots of time, love and understanding to raise up a child in the way of the Lord. When you fail, pick yourself up and go on.
4. **Don't Be Afraid to Say "I Was Wrong."** Oftentimes that is the hardest thing to do, but parents are human and teens will respect you for it.
5. **Pray!** What parent goes to bed without praying for his/her children? Prayer is one of the most important things to help parents make it through the teen's years.

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have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27). "*Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?*" (Romans 6:3). Baptism is immersion, for it involves going "*down into the water*" and coming "*up out of the water*" (Acts 8:38-39), and it is likened, more than once, to burial (Romans 6:3-6; Colossians 2:12).

Baptism must be preceded by learning (Matthew 28:18-20). Baptism is predicated on believing (Mark 16:16). Baptism must follow confession (Acts 22:16). Baptism has repentance as a prerequisite (Acts 2:38).

Therefore, a Christian is someone who learned the gospel (Romans 10:17), believes in Jesus (John 3:18), confesses his faith (Romans 10:9-10), has repented of his sins (Acts 3:19), and has been baptized for salvation (1st Peter 3:21).

The person who has not obeyed these words, or who merely performed the actions incidentally, rather than to receive forgiveness from God, is not a Christian, no matter how loudly or often he "identifies" as such.

**"WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?"**

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY

Men's/Women's Studies
@ 6:30 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard
Belen, New Mexico

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN
ANY TRESPASS...
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

GALATIANS 6:1

CONFESS TRESPASSES

James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 8:22

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 8:22

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

PROVERBS 25:11

"People have a tendency to remember you as you were. Unless you're careful, you have a tendency to remember you as you were, too."

– Dickie Moore

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

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SELF-IDENTITY IS SELF-DECEPTION

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Regardless of how one identifies himself, God determines what is true.

A man may sever his reproductive organs, surgically reduce his Adam's apple, receive estrogen, grow his hair and nails, shave his legs, put on a dress, wear cosmetics, protest his masculinity, and declare himself a woman, but, nonetheless, he remains a man. He still has a Y chromosome and he still has male DNA. He will never menstruate, never ovulate, never bear young in a womb, never breastfeed an infant, and never experience menopause. Identifying himself as a woman does not make it so. *"From the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female'"* (Mark 10:6).

"Deceiving and being deceived" is the work of evil (2nd Timothy 3:13), and identifying oneself as what he manifestly is not amounts to deception.

Like a so-called "transgender," one may call himself a Christian, quit some immoral habits, attend a church regularly, pray often, read Scripture constantly, contribute generously, teach others about Jesus, and help his neighbors sacrificially, but none of that makes him a Christian any more than a man on hormone pills is a woman. "I identify as a Christian" and "I identify as a woman" are equally absurd to the God who makes men, women, and Christians. *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does* – Continued on page 2 –

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