

# Wine that Maketh Glad the Heart

The fact that Jesus made and drank fermented wine is a subject that some Christians refuse to grasp. Refusing to drink is one thing, but to teach that Jesus made and drank grape juice is just absurd. For just a simple study of God's word would show otherwise. Unfortunately this kind of fails teaching can make Christians look silly and thus effect how people view the church. For I myself have attended three Jewish weddings and from what I experienced, they do serve fermented wine. So to say that Jesus turned water into Welch's Grape Juice, just don't fit scripture and what we see in real life.

But that being said, I do believe these same people are sincere in their faith and mean well. For it's true that wine and other alcoholic beverages have caused many problems. However, to twist scripture because of one's own conviction is just wrong. For we must not look down on those who choose not to drink and to be careful not to stumble them with our drinking. But at the same time, we who enjoy a beer or a glass of wine should not be judged by those who choose not to. For it's God who has given us the freedom to drink or not to drink. And let's consider what God's word says: "Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand." (Romans 14:1-4 NKJV)

Now that being said, if one's drinking is abused to the point of being a drunkard (one who continually gets intoxicated), it can harm that person's relationship with God and even keep them from entering the Kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). However, that doesn't mean you "throw the baby out with the bathwater." We should not demonize something just because there are those that abuse it. Anything can be abused, and whatever you are abusing can become a sin in your life. And the reason for this should be clear. For if what you are doing causes you to be unfruitful and even harmful to you or others, then you are being counterproductive. Jesus said if any branch in me does not bear fruit then it is removed. Also, He goes on to say that the will of the Father is that you bear much fruit (John 15).

So, from what was just mentioned, whatever causes you to be unfruitful causes you to sin. This would include excessive drinking, wrongful sexual activity, watching ungodly movies, or anything else that's counterproductive. You may already know that there are warnings in the bible concerning sexual misconduct. Now does that mean we're to refrain from it all together? I firmly believe that sexual misbehavior has caused much harm upon this earth. It has been used to violate women, young children, men, animals, and is the cause of many diseases as well. But again, should we throw it out and encourage everyone to become celibate? Of course not. So why would we do that with wine or any other alcoholic drinks? For studies have shown that there are health benefits to drinking wine and beer. Even in God's word we read: "He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth; And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart." (Psalm 104:14-15)

So in conclusion, enjoying a glass of wine or a bottle of beer is not a sin as long as you refrain from getting drunk. Jesus Himself admits to drinking fermented wine as well as the gospel of John declaring that He made it at the wedding in Cana of Galilee (Matthew 11:19, John 2:1-11). Now I have to admit, drinking is not for everyone. There are those who may feel the need to refrain from alcohol for whatever reason. But that's their choice, and their choice should not be

pushed on others who have the liberty to do so. Nor should anyone put the pressure on an individual to make them drink when they feel uncomfortable about it. So, as God's word says: "Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. ... Let not then your good be evil spoken of: For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. ... Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. (Romans 14:13, 16-17, 19)