Believers need to seriously consider their use of alcohol. The Bible specifically warns believers from becoming intoxicated (Eph 5:18) and declares drunkenness to be a sin. The loss of self-control that the effects of alcohol can cause are not consistent with a person in the control of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22), whereas drunkenness is considered a work of the flesh (Gal 5:21). There are numerous Scriptures which point out the negative consequences of drunkenness (Prov 31:4—5, Zeph 1:12, Prov 21:17) and it can lead to other sinful behavior like sexual perversion (Hab 2:15).

A believer is given freedom to drink alcohol but is encouraged to drink it with meals so that it would reduce the intoxicating effect (1 Cor 10:23). It was not uncommon for early believers to have used fermented wine in the Communion ceremonies (1 Cor 11:21). Jesus created wine that is assumed to have been fermented drink (John 2:10), so we can assume He would not have done so if there was an absolute prohibition on drinking alcohol. The issue that must be considered is whether the impact of the use of alcohol will lead to a person losing their normal self-control.

Another critical consideration for a mature believer is to consider whether their use of alcohol will negatively impact a “weaker brother” (Rom 14:21). Mature believers are supposed to model holy living for less mature believers. Their actions can be misunderstood by a less mature believer and cause them to sin (1 Cor 8:12). Many people have a weakness towards the use of mind-dulling drugs and our disciplined use of alcohol might be impossible to duplicate by someone who is a recovering alcoholic. Mature believers should consider the impact of their actions and choose to take actions which will edify other believers (1 Cor 6:12).

Word Count: 301