

What Wine did Jesus Make?

(Praying that All would have a Proper Perspective)

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Did Jesus make & drank Fermented Wine?



“When the head steward tasted the water that had been turned to wine, not knowing where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), he called the bridegroom and said to him, ‘Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the cheaper wine when the guests are drunk. You have kept the good wine until now!’” (John 2:9-10 NET)

Drinking wine is one of those topics that has been misunderstood by some Christians. For there are those who try to make the scriptures read in such a way as to condemn the drinking of fermented wine. Yes, they go as far in such a way as to say that Jesus made ordinary grape juice at the wedding he was invited to. However this is not true. For we can clearly see from scripture itself that Christians, and yes even Jesus himself drank (and even made) fermented wine. Now, I do believe that 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. But to twist scripture in such a way as to fit one’s own theological view is wrong as well.

So, let’s start in John’s gospel chapter 2 where it says that Jesus made “good wine” from water. “*When the head steward tasted the water that had been turned to wine, not knowing where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), he called the bridegroom and said to him, ‘Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the cheaper wine when the guests are drunk. You have kept the good wine until now!’*” (John 2:9-10 NET) So, head steward admitted not only that the “good wine” can make the people drunk, but unknowingly admitted that Jesus had made “good wine.” So yes, Jesus made fermented wine at this wedding. (Please note: the word used for “drunk” in that passage above is the Greek word: “methuo,” which means “intoxication.”)

Now, let’s look at another passage that should show that the early church did drink fermented wine. “*Now when you come together at the same place, you are not really eating the Lord’s Supper. For when it is time to eat, everyone proceeds with his own supper. One is hungry and another becomes drunk. Do you not have houses so that you can eat and drink? Or are you trying to show contempt for the church of God by shaming those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I praise you? I will not*

praise you for this!" (1 Corinthians 11:20-22 NET) So, we see the same Greek word used for drunkenness as before. So, this should stop all mouths that say the consumption of alcohol in general is wrong.

Being Filled with the Spirit

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:18-20 NIV)

Now, that being said, we must admit that getting drunk is a sin according to scripture. And if abused to the point of one being a continued drunkard, it can harm that person's relationship with God and even prevent them from entering into his Kingdom. (1Corinthians 6:9-10) However, that doesn't mean that you throw the baby out with the bathwater. Therefore, we shouldn't demonize something just because there are those that abuse it. Anything can be abused my brothers and sisters in Christ. Sex can be abused. So, does that mean everybody should become celibate because there are men, women, children, and yes, even animals being sexually violated all over the world? Of course not. So, why should we treat drinking wine differently?

So then, enjoying a glass of wine, a bottle of beer or some other alcoholic beverage is not a sin as long as you refrain from getting intoxicated. And let's remember that Jesus himself admits to drinking fermented wine when he said: "*For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.*" (Matthew 11:18-19 ESV) Now, of course we know that they were falsely accusing Jesus of getting drunk. But, this still shows that they knew he was drinking fermented wine while hanging out with sinners.

This all being said, we see that there are those who do drink wine and there are those who refrain from drinking wine. Therefore, those who choose not to drink should not condemn nor look down on those who do. Also, those who do drink wine should not look down nor pressure anyone to make them drink. And let's take note to what Paul the apostle said: "*Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. ... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves.*" (Romans 14:13-14, 22 NIV)

The Benefits of Wine:

- You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart. (Psalm 104:14-15 ESV)
- No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities. (1 Timothy 5:23 NKJV)

The Issues of Wine:

- Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may run after strong drink, who tarry late into the evening as wine inflames them! (Isaiah 5:11 ESV)
- Don't gaze at wine because it is red, because it gleams in the cup and goes down smoothly. In the end it bites like a snake and stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, and you will say absurd things. You'll be like someone sleeping out at sea or lying down on the top of a ship's mast. "They struck me, but I feel no pain! They beat me, but I didn't know it! When will I wake up? I'll look for another drink." (Proverbs 23:31-35 CSB)

Note: Text other than the King James Version is abbreviated after each verse. Also, they are listed below in more detail to assist you in your study of God's word. Therefore: "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" (2 Timothy 2:15)

- NET = New English Translation
- ESV = English Standard Version
- NKJV = New King James Version
- CSB = Christian Standard Bible
- NIV = New International Version