

# EQUIPPED: Tough Questions

## Chapter 7

### Is It Okay to Drink, Smoke Pot, or Do Drugs? (Pot, Prescriptions, & Addictions)

I may be wrong, but I'm thinking you probably already have formed some knees-locked, heels-dug-in, arms-crossed tight, kind of stances on this often toxic topic.

Maybe because of something you've heard or read or just somehow ended up believing. But most people already have taken a position about drinking, smoking pot, and doing drugs.

***This study isn't about trying to change what you think. Tough Questions isn't about ruffling feathers or condemning ideas.***

It's simply us. Hungry for Him. Women willing to fling our feathers to the side long enough to search the Scriptures and find out for ourselves what God's Word says about the hot topics of our day.

Fierce females in this fallen and scary world are the ones who have the courage to challenge the status quo. **They stand strong when crashing waves of unsettled hearts beg to batter their resolve.** They know, deep down to the soul kind-of-knowing, what they believe and why.

Because they've studied and learned and unlearned.

Because they are women who know that what they believe is oh-so profoundly laid bare before the little lives who, in simple ordinary moments, clutch tight to our words and works and wisdom.

Because they are women who know their very own personal ripples run far and deep and wide into the lives of those who ache to get just a glimpse of what a life really looks like when it follows hard after God. Unafraid. Unashamed. Undaunted.

Join me my sweet fierce friend and *arm up* as we begin answering some of those tough questions together. This is the stuff warrior women are made out of!

## It's All Pretty Much the Same Thing

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Our Christian culture beckons emboldened behavior that questions traditions and embraces trends. Our positions and perspectives are often filtered through the lens of hipster hype and modern moral mores.

Challenging the status quo is a brave and often noble way to filter foolish folklore from rich and deep biblical traditions. But reluctant rejection of the true and noble and right creates chaotic confusion in fallible and flawed human hearts.

***Whether we're talking about drinking, smoking pot, or doing drugs, it's pretty much all the same thing.***

Each alters our ability to think, perceive, control, act, and react. But as someone once asked me, *why is that necessarily a bad thing? Does the Bible say we aren't supposed to drink or get high?*

So, let's do what we are in this study to do. Search the Scriptures together and find out. And because all of the above have basically the same altering affects, when we read about wine in the Word of God, just paint all mood and mind altering substances into the same category.

When we read through the Word of God we find the word *wine* used 231 times and the phrase *strong drink* or *strong wine* in 20 verses. In the original languages (Hebrew and Greek), there are 14 different words used for our English word *wine*. Each word holds its own meaning.

Both the Hebrew and the Greek languages are very specific.

We are used to our casual English expressions that paint many of our words with a broad brush and lose detail, and power, and significance.

Below, is a chart of the Hebrew and Greek words used throughout Scripture for *wine*. Familiarize yourself with them and we will cover some them as we dive deep and drink from the Word.

Strong's #	Hebrew / Aramaic / Greek Word & Definition	Times Used
H3196	<i>yayin</i> - effervesce, fermented, banqueting	140 times
H8492	<i>tiyrowsh</i> - new wine, freshly pressed	38 times
H7491	<i>shekar</i> - strong drink, intoxicating drink	23 times
H3342	<i>yeqeb</i> - winepress, wine vat (much like the H1659 word - <i>gath</i> )	16 times
H2562	<i>chamar</i> - (Aramaic) wine (most likely fermented)	6 times
H6071	<i>`aciyc</i> - new wine, sweet wine, juice	5 times
H5435	<i>cobe'</i> - choice wine, liquor	3 times
H4469	<i>mamcak</i> - mixed wine (with water, milk, spices)	2 times
H2561	<i>chemer</i> - (Aramaic) pure, red, fermenting wine	2 times
H6025	<i>`enab</i> - grape, raisin, wine, fruit	2 times
G3631	<i>oinos</i> - wine, fermented and unfermented (context)	33 times
G3943	<i>paroinos</i> - given to wine, drunken	2 times
G3632	<i>oinophlygia</i> - excess of wine, to be drunken	1 time
G1098	<i>gleukos</i> - new wine	1 time

As you can see, there are quite a few words in Scripture's original language for our one word, wine. While keeping in mind all of the words used, let's look more carefully at the top three.

### Yayin:

The word for wine used most often in the Old Testament is *yayin*. Basically *fermented wine*. People would drink it at parties, use it for medicinal needs, and unwind with a nightcap after a hard day's work.

Nothing's really changed. People still drink *yayin* for basically the same reasons. Some become addicted. Some don't. Some people's lives and families and potential are destroyed because of it. Some aren't.

As I learned from my study of Ecclesiastes, there's nothing new under the sun ([Ecclesiastes 1:9](#)). Times may have changed, but the heart of man has not.

Some enjoy the taste of a certain drink or the socially "cool" status they perceive they have when holding a *yayin*-filled cup (or can - or bottle). Some like getting high,

catching a buzz, deadening their drama-filled lives, or forgetting about the pain etched deeply on their hearts.

Some just want to. Others now have to. Addictions work like that. Subtly. Cunningly. And then you're hooked. *Yayin* has a devious way of taking hostages and ruining lives.

### Tiyrowsh:

The second most often used word for wine in the Old Testament is *tiyrowsh*. It's basically grape juice. Freshly pressed, yummy sweet stuff that may turn your teeth purple but won't give you a buzz. Ever.

And addiction is impossible unless you just can't get enough of this succulent treat.

*Tiyrowsh* by its very nature is not addicting.

### Oinos:

The New Testament term *oinos* is a general term meaning that it can be either fermented or non-fermented depending on usage and context.

*Oinos* is used 33 times in the New Testament and the determination of whether it is speaking of fermented or unfermented wine is based on context and biblical precedent.

**Throughout Christian history, there has been a lot of debate about drinking. Many have scoured the Scriptures in search of answers to questions like:**

- Was wine of biblical times the same as wine of today?
- Have the words used for wine in Scripture changed over the course of time?
- If there are different words for wine, how can we know what it means in each passage?
- What was the alcohol content of wine in the Bible?
- Did Jesus turn water in to fermented wine or unfermented?
- Did Jesus use fermented or unfermented wine during the Last Supper?

When we research Scripture, history, and word etymology, we can answer most questions but there are some we just don't know with 100% certainty this side of heaven.

Some argue that even the fermented wine described in Scripture was not fortified with extra alcohol as is done in many of today's wines. So, we can't really compare. The non-wine-drinkers cite solid theologians like Bailey, Bacchiocchi, Kersey, and others. Wine-drinkers, on the other hand, cling to ideals and grace and our inability to decipher etymology and history in a rearview mirror that goes back somewhere between 2,000 and 6,000 years.

**What we know is that a comparison of biblical and modern history demonstrates that:**

- There was no equal to our modern rum, vodka, brandy, or many of today’s alcoholic beverages.
- Wine was often diluted to prevent not only drunkenness but also to allow enjoyment.
- Becoming a drunk was costly, therefore often (though not always) relegated to the rich.
- Our modern day easy-access to alcoholic beverages is extremely prolific compared to its moderate and limited access during biblical times.
- The propensity for addiction is increased with the increased level of alcohol and availability.

What tends to be the case is that those who *want* to have an excuse to drink generally gravitate to passages that validate their predisposed ideas.

And those who lean heavily on a biblical mandate of abstinence from fermented wine will ultimately seek out Scriptures that speak negatively about drinking wine.

But there is no controversy from either side over God’s Word on drunkenness. It’s not even up for debate. Scripture calls it sin. (Galatians 5:21)

**So, rather than join the inexhaustible debate of *Can a Christian drink?*, let’s focus on an entirely different question. *Should a Christian drink?***

**Begin by reading the following verses and describing the context we find in Scripture. Who was the verse directed to or about? Was it fermented or unfermented? Was it acceptable, unacceptable, or neutral? Was it used positively or negatively?**

Habakkuk 2:15 - (wine isn’t mentioned but understood in context) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 9:21 - yayin (1st mention of wine) - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 27:28 - tiyrowsh - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Leviticus 10:8-11 - yayin and shekar - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- What correlation do you see between Deuteronomy 14:2, 1 Peter 2:9, Revelation 1:6 and Leviticus 10:8-11 and how should that affect us in regards to our conduct? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Deuteronomy 11:14 - tiyrowsh - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Judges 13:4,5,7 - yayin and shekar - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 20:1 - yayin and shekar - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 23:29-35 - yayin - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ecclesiastes 9:6-8 - yayin - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 5:11,22 - yayin and shekar - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John 2:3-11 - oinos - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- *It's important to note that good wine does not necessarily mean fermented wine during that period of history and in that culture.*
- *It may mean sweetest wine or it may mean fermented wine.*

- *The master of the feast may have given them fermented wine (we don't know for sure).*
- *I seriously doubt that Jesus made water into fermented wine because He came to fulfill the law. And as a strict adherent to the law who was also both the Priest after the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 5:4-6), it would have been forbidden for a priest to drink wine or give others wine to drink. Also consider what you learned from Habakkuk 2:15.*

1 Corinthians 5:11 - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Maybe you're a bit like me and you just wish there was one specific verse that came right out and said, "Thou shall not drink fermented wine." But the truth is, we are given references to sweet new wine and references to fermented wine and in the majority of those verses, sweet wine is something to enjoy while fermented wine is something to avoid.

If you noticed, our research only gave us insight as to what the Bible says about wine. That's because drug use wasn't an issue during biblical times, yet Scripture addresses it from a different perspective.

**Ultimately, drinking, drugging, and even smoking pot are basically the same thing.**

They affect one's ability to rationalize, respond, act, and react. They make people behave in ways they never would if they weren't under the influence. So, when we are talking about drinking wine, we are lumping all drugs and drinking into one behavior, mood, and mind-altering category.

For Christians, there are some pretty direct expectations to stay sober, to steward the body and mind God has given us well, and to avoid causing others to stumble.

**Read the following verses and explain what they are saying in your own words and how that verse relates to a Christians supposed "freedom" to drink.**

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 Corinthians 5:13 - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Thessalonians 5:6-8 - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:3 - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Romans 14:13, 21 - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 8:9 - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*\* Keep in mind when you see the word sober or sober-minded, it means to abstain from wine, to be circumspect, able to think clearly, temperate, to watch.*

Some may loophole the *no direct commandment* concept and run with it right to the local bar. Others stand in judgement of the brother or sister who drinks wine with a meal.

Colossians 2:16 tells us, “*Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days.*”

Some of the most fervent Christians in history drank wine with a meal. Some of the most ungodly, legalistic, and pompously pious Christians this world has ever known are abstainers from wine.

Drinking wine isn't the litmus test for living a godly life. But it does indicate what a Christian knows, believes, or has been taught about this controversial subject.

**The issue isn't *can* a Christian drink. The issue is *should* a Christian drink?**

Let me tell you about a sweet friend's experience that might help you in your journey to understand why when we study Scripture, it really comes down to a matter of the heart.

The issue isn't *can*  
a Christian drink.

The issue is *should*  
a Christian drink?



## My Sweet Friend's Story:

*It was a simple passing conversation I just simply couldn't shake. She and her husband were saved some 20 plus years earlier and they had been serving the Lord together for more than 2 decades. But then she leaned in, whispering tear-stained words that were instantly etched on my heart, "He's been spiraling out of control since our elder gave him the first drink he had had in over 15 years."*

*My heart thumped angry, hard, confused, and fast. Why would an elder pass a drink to a man whose past brimmed broken with alcohol? Decades drew the curtain on the man he once was. Jesus had set him free and made him new.*

*But cupped in the trusted hand of his this precious man's truth-teller, he was handed a lie. That somehow he could handle just one.*

*But he couldn't. He didn't. And almost 10 years later, he's still trying to get his head above those alcoholic waters. Waters that have flooded his life and has his wife sinking in the wake of it all.*

*All because an elder offered him a drink.*

If we are kings and priests, and if an elder or teacher is held to a higher standard (James 3:1), and elders are given the responsibility to care diligently for their flock and live a life that is sober and free from that which could cause reproach (1 Timothy 3:3, 8, Titus 1:7), then why in the world would an elder buy wine, drink wine, or offer wine to someone else?

***I realize we live in an age of church leaders looking for those proverbial loopholes to be cool and hipster and all, but is it really worth it?***

## What about smoking a joint or taking something to relax us?

Remember, it's all pretty much the same. In fact, the level of THC in recreational cannabis has increased to levels as high as 30%. That means smoking one joint today will get you higher faster than some 30 to 40 years ago.

The thing with pot is there is no way to control content. Levels of THC vary as well as possible contaminants. So, you literally never know what you're getting. ***But there's one thing you will get if you smoke a joint, and that is high. A far contrast from sober-minded.***

Getting high for the sake of catching a buzz is at its very core, a heart issue.

Whether it's a drinking a drink, smoking a joint, or popping a pill, the need for something external to calm the internal flies hard in the face of verses that tell us that God is our peace and our comfort and our shield and our strong tower.

Imagine what our Christian experience and testimony would look like if we chose to allow God to be the Balm to calm our hearts and heal our souls instead of all of the stimulant options at our disposal today.

### **What about medicinal marijuana?**

I'll be the first one to raise my hand and say the FDA has failed and failed big when it comes to discovering all the possible benefits that may be found in that 5 to 7 leaf pot plant. The truth is, most plants have at least one type of medicinal or health benefit - and often many more. So, I truly wish the FDA would shift into 5th gear when it comes to determining its various benefits and work on making it available in a form that is solely medical in nature.

For sure, cannabis may not be the only botanical organism the FDA is slow to research, but it is the most controversial. Maybe because of control, potency, and dosage of either the THC, the cannabinoid, or the 500 other chemicals within this potent plant. But whatever the case, there is much more research to do to determine effects, side-effects, and potential benefits.

However, the FDA has approved 3 specific drugs Marinol, Syndros, and Cesamet, which are synthetic forms of THC and given to patients for various medical conditions. Beyond that which they have researched and been able to control and manufacture, other medical uses are just speculation.

When you scour the internet for information, you find everything from videos that show grandmothers being momentarily healed of Alzheimer's every time they smoke a joint to articles about why your dog with arthritis needs to be on medical marijuana. Everyone has a story that is geared to sway their readers to adapt their point of view.

Scripture teaches us that doctors and medicine are an important part of our lives and our communities ([Jeremiah 8:22, Ezekiel 47:12, Luke 10:33-34](#)).

There is also benefit in natural healing. Certain essential oils, teas, plants, and herbs can treat certain ailments.

- Coconut oil heals ringworm and acts as an antiseptic and anti-fungal agent.
- Chamomile can relieve indigestion as well as anxiety.
- Sage regulates hormones and is used to treat Alzheimer's.
- Echinacea is an immune booster and helps our bodies fight off infections.
- Great Mullein acts as an expectorant and helps treat respiratory tract problems.
- Aloe Vera is known as the skin-friendly plant and used to heal burns and rashes, as well as having an antibiotic and antimicrobial effect.

So, you might be wondering what's the difference between using some of these natural healing herbs and smoking a joint.

It's pretty simple. Those plants won't get you high.

And to be gut-wrenchingly honest, the majority of people who defend their right to use marijuana aren't the ones who are seeking to use it for medicinal needs. They just want to catch a buzz.

I hope one day, research and control and dosage can be determined for the over 500 chemicals found in a marijuana plant that may truly have healing properties in them. And perhaps they will produce a multitude of drugs that will help those in need.

But until they do, the supposed benefits are just theory, and the known consequence to smoking a joint is getting high.

So, it's really back to the heart issue. If your doctor has prescribed medical marijuana for one of the ailments it was designed for, that is a legitimate use of it as medicine and it's no different than if your doctor prescribed Tramadol or Celebrex.

In fact, your doctor most likely prescribes drugs like Oxycontin, Codeine and Fentanyl. So, while the medical marijuana drugs like Marinol, Syndros, and Cesamet are narcotics, the reality is that many of the drugs that physicians prescribe every day are also narcotic and usage needs to be carefully monitored to avoid addiction. That's valid for all narcotic drugs.

## **What about mood altering drugs like antidepressants or stimulants like ADHD medication?**

While the world we live in conjures up syndromes and disorders for every little thing, we need to do our own research to determine what's valid and what is the pharmacy companies' excuse to develop another pill to sell.

They seriously have a pill for everything!

But we have Google. So, while we can't trust every website and every article on the internet, we can go to well proven and respected sources to find out what they say about some of the syndromes, disorders, and issues doctors are wanting to prescribe medications for.

If you or someone you know has been diagnosed with depression, ADD, ADHD, bipolar, PTSD, or some other issue, it's important for you to do your own research. Find out what your options are.

**If you need help, here are some suggestions:**

- **If you need counseling get *biblical* counseling.** There is a huge difference between going to a Christian counselor and going to a biblical counselor. We are called to bear one another's burdens and biblical counselors are trained to use Scripture to help people walk through and find victory over their struggles. Trust that the same God who created you is the One who has every answer for every struggle you face.
- **Seek out help from a doctor if your struggle continues.** Our bodies are complex and our minds are part of the complexity that makes us distinctly human and uniquely who we are. Various factors can cause us to have hormonal or chemical imbalances, physical ailments, deficiencies that cause emotional and mental breakdowns, stress factors, and coping issues. Seek help from a doctor who specializes in what it is you're going through.
- **Be your own advocate.** It's your health, so make it your business to know as much as you can about your own condition and the options that are available. Take advantage of technology. Google what your doctor says you have and the various treatments that are out there. No one will care more about your health than you do, so learn as much as you can and make your treatment and medication decisions accordingly. And get a second opinion!
- **Research what doctors prescribe.** Sometimes the side effects are worse than the condition. Educate yourself about the medications the doctors prescribe for you.
- **Look for natural remedies.** God has given us a plethora of natural healing agents for both our minds and our bodies. Find out what's out there, how it works, and if you can, see if it will work for you.
- **See a holistic doctor.** Sometimes our minds and our bodies are deficient of certain necessary vitamins or minerals and that deficiency is actually the cause of the problem. Other times, we have sensitivities and allergies to certain substances that cause many of the same issues that send us to the doctor in the first place. A holistic doc is able to help in many cases.

- **Seek God's wisdom to know what to do next.** You were created by God and for God. He tells you to go to Him when you lack wisdom and He will graciously lavish it on you. So, go. He's there waiting and His Word overflows with the words of wisdom you may need.

I'm not a doctor and I'm definitely not qualified to give medical advice. But I do know that prescription drug addiction is just as devastating and can be just as deadly as illegal drug addiction. But hopefully, the suggestions above can help you make educated and wise decisions for your own personal wellbeing.

## What's the Big Deal?

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Probably one of the most frequent comments I hear about drinking or smoking a joint is, "So, what's the big deal anyway?"

Scripture alone gives us plenty of reasons why we really need to rethink the whole drinking and getting high thing.

I remember when my husband was saved. He rushed up to the pastor, told him he wanted to give his life to Jesus, sat down as the pastor began to introduce those who had made a decision for Christ, and one of the first thoughts that went through his mind as he sat front and center on that pew was, "My sons will never know me as a drunk."

No one told him he would be different. He didn't go to a Bible study that taught him that he was no longer supposed to drink. He just knew deep down in his soul that from that point forward, he would be a different man.

That's what happens when you truly give your life to Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says,

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;  
old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."*

A drunk is what he had been for more than a decade. But the moment the Holy Spirit came into his life, He changed him and made him new.

How did he know he'd be different? Only by the power of the Holy Spirit at work in him. Even lost people know there should be a difference in the lives of those who call themselves Christians.

## So, the big deal is...

- That Jesus makes all things new (Ezekiel 11:19)
- That Jesus gives us all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).
- There is a real and visible contrast of those who live according to the flesh and those who have been transformed by the power of God (Galatians 5:19-26, Romans 12:1-2, Romans 6:11-14).
- When you gave your life to Jesus, you died to your self (Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:11, Colossians 3:5, Galatians 5:24, 1 Peter 4:2, Matthew 10:38, Ephesians 4:22).
- Nothing is worth losing your testimony (1 Peter 2:12, Colossians 4:1)

Perhaps it's worth noting that while our modern hip, cool, Christian culture vies for edgy by pushing the edge, the Christians of old were known by their love and by lives that were visibly different.

- In the 2nd century, Clement in Egypt alluded to Christians as "enkratites" - total abstainers.
- In the 3rd century, Origen, Cyprian at Carthage, and Zeno of Italy all declared that it was sweet nectar (not fermented wine) that Christ drank during the Last Supper.

And if that's not enough, let me share an excerpt from an article I found by Barry Cameron, pastor of Crossroads Church in Grand Prairie, Texas. It's entitled, "50 Reasons I Don't Drink."

### 50 reasons why I don't drink:

1. I can't be sober-minded if I'm not sober.
2. Alcohol has an assignment: destruction.
3. Alcohol is a depressant. Anything that depresses should be avoided at all costs.
4. I don't want to make my brother or sister stumble in the name of exercising my "Christian liberties." My choice to drink could lead to someone's demise.
5. Alcohol skews my judgment.
6. Alcohol leaves me worse, not better.
7. What I do in moderation, my children will do in excess.
8. Even the unsaved know I shouldn't drink. Bible in one hand, beer in the other – any lost person could point this out as a confusing contradiction.
9. Alcohol doesn't bring *others* closer to the Lord when they see me drinking, but farther away.
10. Alcohol doesn't bring *me* closer to the Lord when I drink, but farther away.

11. I want to be fully awake and ready for the return of Christ, not drowsy, sluggish and fuzzy.
12. Show me a family that alcohol has made a positive difference in their lives. You won't be able to.
13. I have never heard anyone say, "Wow, that gin and tonic made me feel so Christ-like!"
14. I want to avoid all appearances of evil.
15. Alcohol makes it much harder for me to practice the fruit of self-control.
16. Alcohol causes me to lose my filter.
17. Alcohol is a mind-altering, legal drug.
18. Alcohol is addictive.
19. Alcohol is a numbing agent for pain and sorrow that only Jesus can heal.
20. Many regrets are associated with alcohol. (I can give you a whole bunch!)
21. No one has ever said, "If only I had taken a drink, things wouldn't have gotten out of control."
22. Alcohol causes me to act in ways I normally wouldn't.
23. Alcohol kills brain cells.
24. Alcohol is a counterfeit, and provides a false peace.
25. The Bible says that no drunkards will enter the Kingdom of God. Being drunk starts with one drink. I don't want to see how far outside the lines I can color when eternity is at stake.
26. Alcohol is a waster – money, gifts and talents, destinies, etc.
27. Alcohol leads to really bad behavior. It is a factor in 50% of violent crimes.
28. Alcohol distracts and derails you from living the victorious life for which Christ died.
29. Wisdom is the principle thing that I need to pursue at all cost; alcohol makes me stupid.
30. Alcohol has ruined many, many marriages.
31. The only influence I should be "under" is God's.
32. The Bible tells me to be alert; alcohol delays my reaction time.
33. If I don't start drinking, I'll never have to stop.
34. Alcohol severely tarnishes my testimony.
35. Don't want your teenagers to drink? Yep, same reasons apply to you.
36. God is holy; alcohol is not.
37. Alcohol and prayer don't mix.
38. Alcohol and Bible study don't mix.
39. Alcohol lowers my resolve to resist temptation.
40. Alcohol = Brokenness (broken lives, health, dreams, etc.)
41. When the world sees us drinking it sends the message that Jesus isn't enough.
42. Moderate drinking? How about moderate pornography or moderate heroin use or moderate lying or moderate adultery?
43. Christians are called to live a life of total surrender and separation from the world.
44. Alcohol makes me forget. It can make me forget that I am married, that I am saved, etc.
45. "I don't get drunk. I only have one or two drinks." If they didn't affect you, you would drink soda.
46. I should never look to the glass or bottle for joy which can only be found in the Lord Jesus Christ.
47. Alcohol fills my mind with impure thoughts.
48. If it could hinder my faith walk, love walk or dishonor the lordship of Jesus Christ I need to forsake it.
49. Alcohol doesn't help me run the race that Jesus has marked before me to finish with more accuracy. It does the polar opposite.

