



## Under the Influence

Justin Worden – October 22, 2008  
Tupos SM - Wednesday Night Live

**Ephesians 5:18-20** = Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (NLT)

### I. Influence Identification

#### a. Influence Defined

- i. "influence" means = power, control, pressure, authority, sway, weight, persuade, manipulate

#### b. Influence: Good or Bad?

- i. Negative = Influenza (the flu)
  1. harmful, evil, wrong
- ii. Positive = influencing someone to do the right thing
  1. Everyone of us can do that (through Christ)
- iii. "The influence each of us wields is powerful enough to illuminate the world for God! We are to light the way for the world through our good works. Three words come to mind: influence, initiative, and impact" (Bill White, Directions Devotional, October 17<sup>th</sup>)

#### c. What About Your Influence?

- i. Your influence = at home, work, school (everywhere)
- ii. Everyone has influence
  1. "So the question we ought to ask ourselves from time to time is, 'If I am taken prematurely, how would others remember me? What kind of trail of influence am I leaving spiritually?' Sociologists tell us that even the most introverted person will influence 10,000 other people during his or her lifetime. That is amazing! What a potential for influence we have!" (Scott Eynon, Directions Devotional, May 3<sup>rd</sup>).



- iii. What will matter 100 years from now?
  1. Are you living that way?
  2. Life is not about being the "Wildest Partier" (especially if you tell your friends you're Christian)
- iv. This passage gives us two possible influences:
  1. Alcohol or the Spirit (which will you choose?)

### II. Alcohol Abstinence

#### a. To Abstain...

- i. Abstinence = self-restraint or self-denial, no more!
- ii. Not just "don't be drunk"... just stay away!
- iii. It is a call to holiness to abstain from alcohol totally

#### b. To Abstain Completely...

- i. Does the Bible really teach to not drink at all?
  1. I believe it does, here's why:

#### c. The Bible vs. Drinking

#### It's Not Your Body to Choose

- Your Body? (No!) = "Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, NLT)

#### It Is Illegal For You

- Legal FL Drinking Age = 21 (if you are under 21... you are breaking the law!)
- We're called to obey the laws of the land = "Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God" (Romans 13:1, NLT)

#### What Alcohol Produces Is No Good

- "Probably one of the most controversial topics in churches today is the issue of social drinking. Solomon gives us some great wisdom as we decide how we will treat this social ill." (June 15<sup>th</sup> Young Adult SS Material, LifeWay Publications)
- "Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has conflicts? Who has complaints? Who has wounds for no reason? Who has red eyes? Those who linger over wine, those who go looking for mixed wine. Don't gaze at wine when it is red, when it gleams in the cup and goes down smoothly. In the end it bites like a snake and stings like a viper." (Prov 23:29-32, HCSB)
  - "The world loves to paint a picture of what alcohol produces. We see the glamour of friends hanging out in a place where everybody knows your name. Everybody loves everybody, and there's nothing better than having that place to go to. The reality of what alcohol produces is much different"

#### It Is a Downward Spiral

- The downward spiral of the drinker - Prov 23:33-35 = "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]." (HCSB)
  - "Solomon gives a great picture of what happens to someone who is not willing to face the dangers of alcohol usage."

### It Can Only End In Destruction

- Alcohol never produces good things in the long run (in real life)
  - It will only destroy marriages/families/friends/lives
  - Testimony from student? (the destruction of alcohol)
  - "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy" (Jn 10:10, NASB)
    - If we know this is one way the "thief" destroys... why do we even bring it into our homes/lives?

### The Addiction Is Not Worth It

- Monkey Addicts (Hot Illustrations 1.0)

A scientist conducted an experiment in which he made cocaine available to some monkeys. These monkeys could pull a lever in their cages to release a little cocaine into their feeding tray. Not surprisingly, the monkeys became addicted to the drug. As the experiment continued, the scientist found that if the addicted monkeys could get additional cocaine hits any time they wanted by just pulling the lever, all of them would overdose. They all ended up killing themselves.

The scientist then tried another experiment with addicted monkeys. He began to withhold the fix when the monkey pulled the lever. Over and over these monkeys pulled the lever, trying to get cocaine. They continued to pull the lever not ten times, not a hundred times, or even a thousand times. Those addicted monkeys pulled it an average of 12,800 times!

Powerful addictions can rule the lives of people—addictions to work, food, gambling, sex, alcohol, or drugs. Some finally reach a point where they lose any hope of breaking free. Some even turn aside from help offered, convinced that they're a hopeless case.

But there's hope in Christ. He can set any person free from the addiction of sin. He can give you a fresh start on your life. When you invite Christ into your life, the change begins to take place—from the inside out. You can't beat addictions on your own, but through the power of Christ, you can be set free. "It is not I who lives, but Christ in me" (Galatians 2:20).

### This Biblical Church Forbids It

- As a member / family of New Hope Baptist Church you are called to abide by our Church Covenant which reads: "to abstain from the sale of and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to use our influence to combat the abuse of drugs and the spread of pornography..." (Constitution of NHBC, Article VI: Church Covenant)
  - An we should submit to authorities like Pastor Chris just shared from 1 Peter 2:13-18 this past Sunday).

### Do The Best For "Others" Who Are Watching

- "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Don't give offense to Jews or Gentiles or the church of God. I, too, try to please everyone in everything I do. I don't just do what is best for me; I do what is best for others so that many may be saved." (1 Corinthians 10:31-33, NLT)
  - The world is watching... how are you influencing them?
  - Is your drinking (any amount) glorifying God?

### It's Time For A Change

- "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:1-2, NIV)

### **d. You vs. Drinking**

- i. The Truth of This Verse (v.18)
  1. "Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life" (NLT) = Don't touch alcohol, it will ruin your life!
- ii. Strength to Overcome
  1. "No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it." (1 Corinthians 10:13, Msg)
- iii. Instead of being influenced by alcohol, let the Spirit have His way in your life... be Spirit-filled!



### **III. Spirit Satisfaction**

#### **a. Drunk in the World**

- i. Drunk = intoxicated, high, inebriated, smashed, under the influence, not sober
- ii. At least 68 times my Bible talks about being "drunk"
- iii. Alcohol in Biblical Times: "Even the strong alcoholic wine made in biblical times was diluted with water as much as 21-to-1 before drinking. If one assumes naturally fermented wine with an alcohol content of eleven percent, the strongest wine normally consumed in Bible times was mixed in a 3-to-1 water/wine ratio, that wine would have an alcohol content of around 2.75 percent. This is a far cry from the wine commonly sold for consumption today. So the wine of Bible times is not comparable to today's commonly used undiluted wine." (Craig Alan Myers, <http://www.brfwitness.org/WAW/wine.htm>)

#### **b. Drunk in the Spirit**

- i. To be "drunk" in the Spirit means to be completely under the influence of the Lord... let Him have His way with you...

#### **c. The Results (vv.19-20):**

- i. If you give God complete control of your life (under His influence) the results are amazing:
  1. Biblical Knowledge (singing psalms – from His Word, knowing His Word, your Bible)
  2. Corporate Worship (hymns, spiritual songs among yourselves, truly worshipping as a group)
  3. Personal Worship (making music to the Lord in your hearts, personally worshipping God)
  4. Thankful Hearts (give thanks for everything = blessings abound and you'll notice them more)
  5. In Christ (in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ – all for Him!)



Related music = "God of This City" (*Hello Love* by Chris Tomlin, 2008)  
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