

"IS 'ONE DRINK' A SIN?"

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

Often a person will ask the question, "Is it a sin for a person to drink a beer or a glass of alcoholic wine in private?". The honest Bible student responds to the above question by sharing some Scripture and common sense comments such as:

1) I Thessalonians 5:22 "Avoid every appearance (all kind) of evil". Booze has always had a connection with evil (wrong doing). A report from "USA Today" (3-21-92) reported that alcohol contributed to the following:

- a) 83% of fire deaths
- b) 72% of aggravated assaults
- c) 70% of sexual abuse, including rape, and incest
- d) 69% of drownings
- e) 60% of deaths and injuries from falls
- f) 54% of violent crimes
- g) 50% of murders
- h) 50% of fatal car accidents
- i) 50% of spousal abuse
- j) 40% of child-abuse deaths

Besides the terrible effects on the human race as stated above, alcohol abuse in the USA cost the U.S. economy \$85.9 billion in 1988. This includes factors such as business days lost, premature deaths, and health cost, not to mention the rivers of tears shed by effected individuals, of America's 15.1 million alcohol abusers.

2) Romans 14:13b "...make up your mind not to put any stumbling block, or obstacle in your brother's way." (see also I Corinthians 8:9; I John 2:10). The conscientious Christian will work overtime in attempting to not be a stumbling block to others, even if one can stop at one drink and not become a part of the above statistics. No one who ever took the first drink believed that it would result in him/her becoming an alcoholic. Besides booze filling one's mind with impure and perverse thoughts and making a fool out of one's self - when purchasing booze even to drink in privacy, someone is going to see one doing so and use this as a stumbling block to keep them away from church and the Lord. Even the doctor who prescribes a beer to flush one's kidneys or a glass of wine periodically seemingly is unaware of alcohol's addiction. There is always another medication other than booze. It is too dangerous to take the chance even with one drink. Playing with fire will sooner or later burn one.

KYOWVA EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION

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