church experience

CE Position on Alcohol

The Bible is clear that getting drunk is a sin. The line of having one too many drinks is easily crossed, so we avoid the temptation of walking close to the line. Alcohol is a top killer, marriage splitter, and causes many people to stumble (crimes, violence, abuse). We do not shy away from encouraging people to minimize alcohol's role in their life!

We prefer and promote abstinence and drinking should be handled carefully by a believer if they do drink. Casual drinking is not a sin and we are not awkward or judgmental around people who do drink. We ask leaders to carefully consider if it would be better for them to abstain and we ask a higher standard of Lead Pastors (below).

As leaders on every level, we collectively submit to our CE guideline of no alcohol at CE meetings, groups, events, and services. There could easily be someone in the group that does/could struggle with alcohol (so we avoid temptation) and we don't envision a culture that promotes alcohol (doesn't seem wise/helpful). People are attracted to a group that can have fun without alcohol and it sets a positive example for the next generation who often are pulled back in their young adult years by alcohol.

If anyone in our leadership community drinks alcohol, we encourage them to make that a private matter and not promote alcohol on social media or within teaching/by modeling in any way.

We prefer our CE pastors completely abstain from alcohol, but if an occasional drink like a glass of wine on an anniversary occurs, it should remain a private/discrete matter for that pastor (and we ask that they not drink publicly or privately with other CE people/leaders).

Ephesians 5:18, *"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit"*

Proverbs 20:1, *"Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise."*

Proverbs 23:20-21, *"Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags."*

Titus 2:3, *"Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good."*

Romans 14:13b, "*Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.*"

For high level leaders, we believe the Bible points toward alcohol not being a big part of leaders' lives…

Proverbs 31:4-5, *"It is not for kings, Lemuel— it is not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer, lest they drink and forget what has been decreed, and deprive all the oppressed of their rights."*

1st Timothy 3:3a, *"not given to drunkenness…" (expectations for overseers)*

Titus 1:7a, *"Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness…".*