Why Christians Should Be Teetotalers

Prov. 20:1

Introduction:

A. Alcohol/Drug addiction is a national scandal.
   1. Recognized by some thinking people (MADD and SADD)
   2. Teen-age alcoholism is a real problem.
B. There are many biblical warnings against drinking of intoxicants.
C. There is only one exception – medicinal uses.
   1. It was used as a sedative (Prov. 31:6)
   2. It was used to revive people (2 Sam. 16:2)
   3. It was used as an antiseptic (Lk. 10:34)
   4. It was used to treat stomach problems (1 Tim. 5:23)
D. Yet, many think it takes alcohol to make a party or elegant dinner.
   1. Some Christians participate and claim to see nothing wrong with it.
   2. We offer 7 reasons why Christians should be teetotalers:

Discussion:

I. Teetotalers Never Get Drunk
   A. A drunk surrenders his self-control (Noah, 2 Pet. 1:6; Gal. 5:23)
   B. A drunk is lost (1 Cor. 6:10; Gal. 5:21)

II. Teetotalers Never Commit Drink-related Sins
   A. “Banqueting” or drinking parties - “potos” - a drinking or imbibing (1 Pet. 4:3)
   B. “Reveling” - “komos” (See Thayer).
   C. “Excess of wine” - Drunkenness
   D. Weakened inhibitions.

III. Teetotalers Never Harm Others Because of Drink
   A. He will not harm another’s person or property because of drink.
   B. He will not harm another’s soul because of drink (cf. Rom. 14:21)

IV. Teetotalers Are Never Embarrassed After Sobering Up
   A. No need to apologize to anyone for actions where under the influence.
   B. No need to be ashamed of anything done while drunk.

V. Teetotalers Do Not Have to Make Weak Excuses for Drinking
   A. “Jesus made wine”
      1. Wine (oinos) like cider is fermented or unfermented (cf. Isa. 65:8).
      2. Strongest NT wine weaker than most now used.
   B. “Not given to wine” implies moderate use ok as long as not given or addicted? (Cf. 1 Tim. 3:3)
      1. “Not given” to filthy lucre (Tit. 1:7).
   C. “Not given to much wine” implies little ok?
      1. Give up point on “given”
      2. Is it ok to be addicted to little?

VI. Teetotalers Never Struggle with Conscience over Drink
   A. Christians are to strive to always have a good conscience (Acts 24:16; 1 Tim. 1:5, 19)
   B. Christians are to refrain from doubtful things (Rom. 14:22, 23)

VII. Teetotalers Never Become Alcoholics.
   A. If alcoholism is an illness, it is a self-inflicted illness.
   B. Alcoholics are brought under the power of alcohol (cf. 1 Cor. 6:12)
   C. Alcoholics have surrendered their self-control.

Conclusion:

A. “Why drink?” – No good reason
B. “Why not drink?” – many good reasons.