

## Should wine be permitted at a Christian Celebration?

ABSTRACT: Shows the Bible teaches Christians should be allowed to drink wine

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Wine was a regular part of Jewish celebrations; in fact, Jesus made wine at the wedding feast in Cana. Many say that the wine that Jesus made had no alcohol, but new wine is lightly fermented grape juice. Grape juice becomes wine in only a few days because the yeast that causes the fermentation is on the skin of the grapes and mixes with the juice as the grapes are crushed. Also, the wine that Jesus made was choice wine, not new wine. *Luke 5:39 And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, 'The old is better.'*

Everyone knows that Jesus made wine, but did you know that he made the wine **after** the guests have **too much** to drink. John 2:9-10 And the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the **choice** wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had **too much** to drink, but you have saved the best till now."

When they came to **celebrate in the presence of the Lord**, a **strong drink** was a suggested purchase. Deuteronomy 14:26 Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, **wine or strong drink**, or anything you wish. Then you and your household shall eat there in the **presence of the Lord your God** and rejoice.

A **purpose of wine is to bring joy**, particularly at feasts. Psalm 104:15 Wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread that sustains his heart. Ecclesiastes 10:19 A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes life merry, but money is the answer for everything. Song of Solomon 1:2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is more delightful than wine.

Some say that the wine was always substantially diluted, not so except as a curse. *Isaiah 1:22 Your silver has become dross, your choice wine is diluted with water.*

Will you say, "No thank you!?" When the Lord sets wine before you? Isaiah 25:6 On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich foods for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine-the best of meats and the finest of wines.

A shortage of wine is a curse! Jesus solved this a Cana. Isaiah 5:10 A ten-acre vineyard will produce only a bath of wine, a homer of seed only an ephah of grain. Haggai 2:16 When anyone came to a heap of twenty measures, there were only ten. When anyone went to a vat to draw fifty measures, there were only twenty. An abundance of wine is a blessing. Proverbs 3:10 Then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Abstaining from wine is on par with abstaining from meat or choice food. Is that your habit at a celebration? Daniel 10:3 I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

While there is a valid concern not to overindulge, it is nowhere even suggested that in moderation, drinking is a problem unless someone who thinks it is wrong does it because he sees you and does it even though he "knows" it is wrong. I Timothy 3:8 *Deacons likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. I Timothy 5:23 Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses. Titus 2:3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way that they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.*