Deception Of Alcohol

Most Christians are aware that drinking alcoholic beverages in moderation is not a sin.

Equally obvious is the warning that no drunkard will inherit the Kingdom of God, [1 Corinthians 6:10].

There is also a warning that wine can be deceptive, and can lead us astray.

Proverbs 20:1 [New King James]  “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.”

We need to ask ourselves the question, “am I deceived about any phase of the alcohol question?”

“Do I believe any myths about alcohol?”

In this article I wish to ask certain questions about alcohol and give a clear answer.

Is alcohol a depressant, not a stimulant?

Alcohol is not always a depressant, so the statement as a whole is false.

Alcohol is usually a depressant in the end but initially, in small quantity and for a short duration, it acts as a stimulant.

Quotation from ‘A Guide to Myths and Realities of Alcoholism’ by Dr. James R. Milan and Katherine Ketcham; page 21:

“Alcohol has immediate and profound effects on behaviour. At low doses, alcohol stimulates the brain cells, and the drinker feels happy, talkative, energetic and euphoric …

“After one or two drinks, the normal drinker may experience some improvement in thought and performance …

“However, as the blood alcohol level rises, the amount of alcohol in the brain also rises, and alcohol begins to disrupt the brain’s electrical and chemical circuitry, causing complicated behaviour changes.”

This report underscores the need for moderation.

It also explains why some drinkers think that they are more alert after drinking alcohol.

They are partly right, if they drink only a small amount, but usually such people do not stop soon enough.

Perhaps they think, “if a little makes me feel so good, more will be better.”

The result of this is deception that can often be disastrous or even fatal for those who drink and drive.

Even though alcohol is in large amounts a depressant, God’s Word, the Christian Bible, indicates the other side of the coin.

Psalms 104:15 [Amplified Bible]  “… wine that gladdens the heart of man.”
Alcohol is at first a stimulant, then a sedative in larger quantities.

Understanding this fact is a helpful tool in setting a proper example ourselves and in teaching others.

**Ability to “hold liquor”**

“There is no such thing as ‘hold liquor.’ Some people can hold their liquor better than others, and this tolerance by the drinker should be viewed as a positive trait.”

This is a false statement.

Ironically, one of the first symptoms of alcoholism is an ability to drink more and still function normally.

Very deceptive! It is only when the alcoholic nears death that they become less tolerant.

The ability to drink more is deceptive.

Quotation from ‘A Guide to Myths and Realities of Alcoholism’ by Dr. J. Milam; pages 48-49:

“In the early stages of alcoholism, the alcoholic is not sick, in pain, or visibly abnormal. In fact, the early, adaptive stage of alcoholism appears to be marked by the opposite of disease, for the alcoholic is ‘blessed’ with a supernormal ability to tolerate alcohol and enjoy its euphoric and stimulating effects, …

“In the early stages, however, the disease is subtle and difficult to recognise. It is characterised by adaptations in the liver and central nervous system, increased tolerance of alcohol, and improved performance while drinking.

“In the middle and late stages of alcoholism, symptoms will be less subtle, and the alcoholic will clearly be in trouble with alcohol.”

**Alcohol and sexual performance**

“Alcohol consumption makes one sexy, and sexual performance is enhanced by alcohol.”

This statement is false.

Even so, it is the underlying premise of many advertisements for beer, wine and distilled spirits.

In Western culture we are so frequently bombarded by messages linking sex and alcohol that we may begin to believe the association.

Of course, there are some positive benefits of alcohol in relationships with others, including those of the opposite sex.

**Alcohol has a legitimate festive use, and it was intended to help families to rejoice together.**

Jesus Christ turned water to wine at marriage feast, [John 2:1-10].

Jesus Christ drank wine, [Matthew 11:19].

But a complete story of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, shows reason for caution.

In several examples, alcohol and sex are mentioned together, and the results are tragic.
Noah abuses what God intended as a blessing, he gets drunk and the results were a sex sin by his grandson and a curse affecting future generations, [Genesis 9:20-27].

Has alcohol been used to take advantage of another sexually and recorded in God’s Word, the Christian Bible? [Habakkuk 2:15; Genesis 19:30-38]

**Male impotence resolved with alcohol?**

This is a false statement.

Sometimes alcohol is actually the cause of impotence since it can slow down body functions.

Impotence is categorised by circulation abnormalities.

Quotation ‘Your Health’ by Neil Solomon:

> Alcohol abuse can decrease testosterone, the key male sex hormone, and that drinking an average of a pint or more of alcohol a day can over a period of five to eight years cause complete loss of sexual function. The condition can be reversed in some cases when they stop drinking, but this is not always the case.”

Alcohol in any form, is not recognised as a treatment for impotence.

Actually, alcohol intake should be reduced or eliminated if impotence is a problem.

**Is alcohol good for health?**

Paul advised Timothy to use a little wine.

1 Timothy 5:23 [New King James] “No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach’s sake and your frequent infirmities.”

Whatever Timothy’s health problems were, a little wine helped. This is not a blanket prescription for everyone. It would certainly not apply to recovering alcoholics, those who have stomach ulcers and those allergic to alcohol. A little with a healthy meal will help the digesting of that meal.

I hope this discussing of a few myths about alcohol has been helpful, for true Christians have been called, among other things, to be a light to this darkened society, [Matthew 5:14-16].